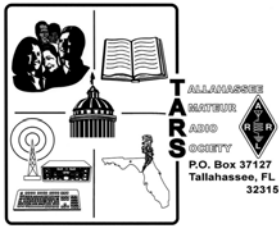


Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society

November 2006



[12Hhttp://www.k4tlh.net/](http://www.k4tlh.net/)

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.

The program for the October meeting will be presented by Brigadier General Larry Wright. General Wright was the pilot for Air Force one during several administrations.

Just a few words:

October turned out to be a very busy month for Amateur Radio in area. The visit to Williams Communications on the 4th was very informative and stirred up some ideas for the Van replacement. The TARS meeting was great, we really are developing something special. On the 7th the spaghetti 100 got off to a rocky start; we couldn't get the van to the event. But not to worry, hams brought extra coax, antennas and radios to save the day. The Hazmat exercise on the 18th was very successful, the hospital staff were impressed with our operation and what we could do for them. The SPARC meeting on the 19th was very informative as well as entertaining. Michael Francis was the quest speaker, and recounted his years in the space program. On the 21st the JOTA event was a lot of fun, the band conditions were not great but we were able to get some kids and adults on the air. Dave Davis held an EC meeting on the 26th to discuss a variety of issues including the ARC background checks, the condition of the ARC HF radios, age appropriate roles for our young hams, another Contact all EC's and working on a fun event to include the local clubs in the area. The Boston Ga Mini was held on the morning of the 28th and the Museum Halloween Howl that night, lots of fun for all.

The TARS Holliday Party will be held at Marie Livingston's Restaurant on North Monroe on December 4, 2006. There will not be a meeting on Thursday December 7th. If you are planning on participating, please send me an e-mail with the number in your party. The head count is very important, please send to KI4HGO@arri.net. Don't miss the next meeting, it will be a winner!!

73

Dan Ki4hgo

Brigadier General Larry D. Wright

Retired Aug. 1, 1987.

Brigadier General Larry D. Wright is vice commander, 22nd Air Force, Military Airlift Command, with headquarters at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. General Wright was born in 1938, in Danville, Va., and graduated from Bladensburg (Md.) High



School. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political geography from the University of Maryland in 1960 and a Master of Arts degree in urban sociology (cum laude) from the University of Colorado in 1972. The general graduated from the National War College, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C., in 1977. He is also a graduate of Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College and Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

He was commissioned in 1960 through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Maryland as a distinguished graduate and was recognized by the American Legion as the outstanding graduate of 1960. General Wright completed flying training at Craig Air Force Base, Ala., in June 1962 and was assigned to Travis Air Force Base. He served initially as a C-133 pilot and instructor, and then as a maintenance test flight officer, from September 1965 to December 1968. In 1969 General Wright became chief of aircrew standardization, flying C-7A Caribous at Cam Ranh Bay Air Base, Republic of Vietnam.



After his tour of duty at the Pentagon, General Wright took command of the 89th Military Airlift Wing at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. This unit provides airlift for the president as well as other high-level government officials and foreign dignitaries.

The general is a command pilot with 7,400 flying hours, including 1,874 combat flying hours and 533 maintenance test flight hours. He has flown T-29s, T-33s, T-34s, T-37s, C-133s, C-7A's, C-9s, T-39s, C-118s, C-131s and C-141s. His military decorations and awards include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Presidential Unit Citation Emblem, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Ribbon with three oak leaf clusters, Combat Readiness Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 11 service stars, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

He was promoted to brigadier general June 1, 1984, with date of rank Oct. 1, 1983.

TARS Meeting

Minutes of the September TARS Membership Meeting Thursday, October 5, 2006

Minutes of the October TARS Membership Meeting
TARS - Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society
Thursday, October 5, 2006

The TARS October Meeting was held at Publix on Ocala Rd. on Thursday, October 5, 2006.

CALL to ORDER at 7:05 p.m.

President Dan Moniz KI 4HGO welcomed the members and guests who signed in. A motion was approved to change the order of business.

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

INTRODUCTION of GUESTS

Dan KI4HGO gave a warm welcome to Virginia Eller KI 4ROK who passed her test at the Tuesday test session.

ARES

Dave Davis WA4WES gave a brief update on how local hams had taken advantage of the quiet hurricane season to improve emergency preparedness skills. He said that ARRL EC Courses I, II, and III may be offered during the Fall and Winter. Sunday Oct. 8 there will be a "mini Field Day" following the ARES net where hams will again test simplex and other modes, probably 2 meters, 2-m SSB, 6 meters, 60 meters, and maybe telpak and other digital modes. Frequencies are listed on the K4TLH webpage ARES forum. Dave also thanked Gene AI 4KK and Dave KI 4LHH for organizing excellent training opportunities, both ARRL and FEMA courses.

PROGRAM

Theo Titus K4MVL gave a very instructive presentation on Modeling of Antennas using the EZNEC software by W7EL (www.eznec.com). He discussed the advances made by club members at the antenna construction session held in August, and demonstrated how a good understanding of antenna theory and doing some modeling with a program like EZNEC can aid in improving antenna performance. Theo's demo of the EZNEC graphics showed how performance can be tuned through proper location and orientation of antenna elements, as well as modification of the lengths of wires and the types of feed lines. Theo did a great job of making a complicated topic understandable and accessible, and received a very appreciative round of applause for his efforts.

BREAK

TREASURER'S REPORT

Carlton AG4UT reported that he had sent Dept. of Emergency Management an email about the 2004 tracker reimbursement, and would follow up with Kent KC4TOC about reimbursement for the

expenditure to repair the van's windshield. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

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

MINUTES

The Minutes were printed in the Newsletter, and approved with correction of a typo.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Testing - Alan Terrell N4KGT reported that two people passed their Technician exams at the TARS test session on Tuesday, October 3rd. He announced that the next test session will be Tuesday December 5th.

Education - Alan substituted for Phil, reminding members that the next Technician class begins on Wednesday, November 1, 2006 at the Red Cross building and will continue for 5 weeks, concluding with testing on December 5th, 2006. Each meeting will include theory and a code practice session.

Repeater -

Trustee Randy Pierce AG4UU reported that the team is going to do more work on the O3 at the Blairstone site.

Website -

Webmaster David Heupel WE4RA reported that Embarq has had DSL router trouble and this has recently affected access to the club website. The problems will be resolved shortly.

Newsletter -

Dan said the October Newsletter was sent out to all members, using the most recent addresses on the sign-up sheets. If anyone did not receive an electronic copy, please let Dan know by email: ki4hgo@arrl.net.

BREAK

OPEN DISCUSSION

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Van Committee - Dan said the committee had been working very hard, per the pictures in the Newsletter showing them evaluating several vehicles. John KI4EWB gave a detailed status report, saying the committee had started from scratch by making a list of specific requirements. These included a size of 26 to 31 ft, hardened (commercial quality) trailer with a 10-15 year life expectancy, reasonable work and sleeping accommodations, surge breaks, awning, 2 work stations, and many more detailed specifications. The idea is to find a cost-effective but adequately constructed option that will serve the needs of the Club, last for a long time, and be reasonable to transport and set up. The committee looked at previously configured vehicles and used that experience to refine the list of desired specifications. Discussion centered on costs, radios to be included, braking systems, generators vs. inverters, customization vs. dealer-built, and various optional equipment. The committee is on schedule with its research and will continue to inspect models and investigate options during October.

Holiday Dinner - Dan reported that Sheri KI 4LHI did a great job of getting ideas from the members and organizing information on locations. Of over 12 restaurants surveyed, only 4 had adequate facilities *and* were available on the regular meeting night of Dec. 7. There was a strong preference expressed for Marie Livingston's which was unavailable that night. Other options included changing the night or trying the University Club or a church hall. The members finally recommended booking Marie Livingston's for a different night or, if that was unavailable, the King Buffet.

Halloween Howl - Dave KG4YZI explained that this activity at the Tallahassee Museum of Natural History would require various hams to provide communications and security on the Haunted Trail on October 27th and 28th. Hams would wear camouflage or dark clothes, with a ham placed between each of 8 positions. Hams would need to be 18 or over due to legal liability issues. Hamsters could participate on the Carnival side. Participants need to sign up in advance with Dan or Alan, it will not be permissible for hams to come at the last minute. Dave will provide communication interoperability for the event.

Spaghetti 100 - Dan reported that he hopes to get the van to its location by 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 7, and there will be bagels and OJ for operators when they arrive. Larry KI 4MAJ informed that the regular race starts at 8 a.m. and the off-road group starts at 8:30 a.m.

Van Operation - Dan reported that he now has copies of the instructional CD for operation of the TARS van. Alan W1ABT is the primary contact for arranging van use. John KG4GXT was thanked for his role in producing the CDs.

NEW BUSINESS

Silent Keys - Dan announced with deep regret and visible emotion the passing of Vern N4SGT and Joel N4JDL, both of whom were WW2 veterans. Dan told members how he and Mike KE4FGF had noted the loss of members of the WW2 generation, and they decided last year to get the war vet hams together for lunch on a regular basis. The lunches provided an opportunity to get to know these people and give them a chance to talk with other hams who were veterans. The group includes people who survived experiences such as the battle of Iwo Jima and the sinking of the USS Indianapolis. Vern and Joel had been regular members of this lunch group, and they will be sorely missed. The group meets for lunch Mondays at Barnhills, and interested hams are welcome to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting closed at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chantal Blanton, KI 4NBU

2006 TARS Membership Roster

By Carlton Wells

The 2006 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 call sign. 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.

SILENT KEYS

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



WW1N Grogan, Edward, Largo, FL
W2NDP Manfre, Daniel, Valrico, FL
K3MQH Ballon, Richard G-, Sarasota, FL
»WA3WQ DeBolt, James W,, Tampa, FL
WD4APL Tate, Thomas R. Jr, Tampa, FL
W4CAL Morion, Calvin T, Homestead, FL
W4JAT Trenaman, John I., Sarasota, FL
K5IHH Browning, John R., SI Petersburg, FL

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

I would like to encourage you to take advantage of a new feature that is available through the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. This new system allows citizens to enter their emergency contact information so that it may be accessed by law enforcement in the case of an emergency. The information submitted will be retained within the DHSMV's secure databases and will only be accessed by law enforcement should an emergency occur. Please follow the instructions provided on the attached flyer. Tom



ON-LINE EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) announces the implementation of a new emergency contact information system. This system allows Floridians to voluntarily provide emergency contact information online, giving law enforcement immediate access to this information and making it easier for them to speak with someone quicker in cases of emergency.

Those with a Florida driver license or identification card can go online to www.hsmv.state.fl.us and enter this information.

This information will be immediately available to law enforcement officials.

To learn more visit: www.hsmv.state.fl.us

Amateur Radio License Class



This course will cover the necessary Federal Communications Commission rules and regulations, electronic theory, operating practices and Morse Code (Five Words Per Minute) for the Federal Communications Commission's Technician Class Amateur Radio License. The Amateur Radio Relay League publication "The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual" will be used during this course and will be provided at no charge to participants.

This course will be offered at the Capital Area Chapter's Headquarters located at 187 Office Plaza Drive in Tallahassee over five Wednesday evenings between 6:00PM and 9:00PM beginning November 1st 2006 and run until November 29th (5 weeks).

The class should finish just before the regular VE testing scheduled for Tuesday December 5th at the FOX49 studios in Midway (the new testing site).

To register please call the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross in Tallahassee at 894-6741 or visit our web site at: www.tallytown.com/redcross/training.html

SPONSORED BY

Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross
Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society

Red Cross Cookout

Our annual **End of Hurricane Season Cookout** is scheduled for December 2 at 5:00PM at the Chapter House in Tallahassee, all Disaster Services Volunteers and their families are invited to participate.

This year's cookout will be an "All-American Celebration" complete with:

- Grilled Hotdogs
- Grilled Hamburgers
- Baked Beans
- Cole Slaw
- Potato Salad
- Apple Pie

Plan to attend our Tenth Anniversary cookout!

Please RSVP by completing and submitting the form at the bottom of the page.

Pictures from the September's meeting



Continued



Pictures from the Spaghetti 100





For the proficient cell phone user.

THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW YOUR CELLPHONE COULD DO...

There are a few things that can be done in times of grave emergencies. Your mobile phone can actually be a life saver or an emergency tool for survival. Check out the things that you can do with it:

*** I ***

* **The Emergency Number worldwide for ****Mobile**** is 112.** If you find yourself out of coverage area of your mobile network and there is an emergency, dial 112 and the mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you, and interestingly this number 112 can be dialed even if the keypad is locked. ****Try it out.****

*** II ***

* **Subject: Have you locked your keys in the car? Does your car have remote keys?***

This may come in handy someday. Good reason to own a cell phone: If you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys are at home, call someone at home on their cell phone from your cell phone. Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the unlock button, holding it near the mobile phone on their end. Your car will unlock. Saves someone from having to drive your keys to you. Distance is no object. You could be hundreds of miles away, and if you can reach someone who has the other "remote" for your car, you can unlock the doors (or the trunk).

Editor's Note: ***It works fine! We tried it out and it unlocked our car over a cell phone!***

*** III ***

Subject: Hidden Battery power

Imagine your cell battery is very low, you are expecting an important call and you don't have a charger. Nokia instrument comes with a reserve battery. To activate, press the keys ***3370#** Your cell will restart with this reserve and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery. This reserve will get charged when you charge your cell next time.

AND

*** IV ***

How to disable a STOLEN mobile phone?

To check your Mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone: *** # 0 6 #** A 15 digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. When your phone gets stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless. You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use/sell it either. If everybody does this, there would be no point in people stealing mobile phones.

Please spread this useful information around

ARRL PRESIDENT AIRS CONCERNS ABOUT REQUIRED RED CROSS BACKGROUND CHECKS

From the ARRL

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, is urging Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and other ham radio volunteers to tread cautiously when submitting information for background checks the American Red Cross (ARC) now requires. The ARC, with which the ARRL has a Statement of Understanding

(SoU) <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/mou/redcro.html>>, this summer notified local chapters that volunteers and staff members must submit to criminal background checks by October 31. Harrison says the requirement extends to ARES volunteers who support Red Cross disaster relief efforts. In a statement <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/RC-Background-Checks0610.pdf>>

October 24, Harrison said the League recommends that anyone submitting personal information for a background check very carefully read what they are giving the ARC permission to collect.

"The Red Cross is requiring volunteers to grant permission for more than just a criminal background check," Harrison asserted. "They are also requiring permission to draw a consumer and/or investigative consumer report on the volunteer." Harrison said that could also include credit and mode-of-living checks.

"The Red Cross has stated that they will not use credit reports," he noted.

"Requiring that volunteers authorize the procurement of a credit report is inconsistent with this assurance."

The ARC has contracted with MyBackgroundCheck.com LLC (MBC) to handle the on-line background checks. Prospective volunteers visit a secure, encrypted Web site <<http://www.mybackgroundcheck.com/>>, click on the ARC logo and submit name, address, Social Security number (or other acceptable government ID), telephone number, and date of birth. The Red Cross says the overall results of the background check are not shared with the ARC.

In the course of applying, prospective volunteers must agree to let MBC obtain a wide range of personal information bearing not just on criminal background and creditworthiness but, MBC says, "character, general reputation [and] personal characteristics." MBC advises, "The nature and scope of this disclosure and authorization is all-encompassing . . ."

The Red Cross says its new policy is aimed at safeguarding clients, volunteers and employees alike. "Unfortunately, in this day and age it is critical that the American Red Cross and other agencies, employers and organizations perform due diligence in researching the people who will represent them," the ARC said in a statement supplied to ARRL.

The ARC apparently has not disseminated policy specifics at the national level. The only reliable information on what the background checks will entail is that on the MBC site. Various chapter-level memoranda the ARRL has obtained contain conflicting information about the program.

ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager Dave Patton, NN1N -- whose department supports the ARRL Field Organization -- is among those who believes the Red Cross stands to lose a fair number of volunteers because of the requirement -- and not necessarily just ARES volunteers.

"ARES members who are providing communications for ARC are working for ARC," Patton maintained, "and, as such, will follow their guidelines." He said the decision to go along with the new Red Cross policy is up to individual volunteers.

The SoU between the League and the ARC is ambiguous as to whether ARES members become Red Cross volunteers when supporting the ARC. While the document says "each organization retains its own identity in providing service," it further stipulates that ARES volunteers "in such cases when the operators are required to carry American Red Cross identification" must register as American Red Cross volunteers. The SoU does not address the issue of background checks, however. The SoU comes up for review in 2007.

Radio amateurs who volunteered in the wake of Hurricane Katrina last year and following 9/11 in New York City were badged through as ARC volunteers. The practice still upsets some ARES volunteers.

Contact the Red Cross (toll-free 800-507-3960) with any questions regarding the background check program.

The following people successfully passed the Emcomm Level I test Wednesday.

David Barton	AI 4GF
I an Jones	KA4YEF
Jeff Lockwood	N4TML
Shawn Wilson	KI 4CI K
Alan Terrell	N4KGT
Stefan Floyd	KI 4JTA
Kerry Lemley	AI 4CW

Alan also passed the Level II exam.

David
KI 4LHH

Tallahassee Digital Group action report

October 18th, 2006

Hazmat drill TLH hospitals

The TDG was asked to assist at the hazmat drill between both hospitals. Our mission was to supply digital communications to augment voice information.

Unlike voice communications, digital comms provide a written record which can be sent to one or multiple valid e-mail address(s) on the internet. The recipient(s) can reply back to the sender, thus completing the exchange of information needed for the event taking place.

The difference that "ham radio" plays is the data is sent via radio waves and does not need the internet at the scene of the event. If this event had been affected by inoperative ISP service between the hospitals, we would send the data to the next available city that had service and send the mail onward. Likewise, any mail coming into the affected area can be retrieved and delivered to the recipient needing the mail. This service is extremely valuable in a natural disaster area. It covers from ground zero outward to the furthest corner of the country, to communicate back to served agency for the exchange of disaster, medical, or Red Cross data.

For this drill, we had a complete mobile data unit at the scene of hazmat incident (CMRC). Another complete mobile data unit was set up at TMH. The operators established 2 voice channels for back up and maintenance of the system. A third operator was at the TLH digital node which took the data and sent it on the internet and also retrieved the data and sent it back to the mobile units. This is a fully automatic operation and the operator was there to fix any possible problem if it occurred.

There were about 7 messages sent and received between the mobiles and all traffic was also sent to various administrators of both hospitals. A copy was also retained by the digital group for any verification that would be needed later.

The delivery time between the hospitals was about 3 seconds turn around time. Also one (1) ARRL message (similar to a Western Union Telegram) was sent and delivered within seconds.

The advantages this type system provides is fast reliable information transfer with 100% error free messages. Multiple addresses can be sent data, and small attachments and photos can be sent. All messages are archived for further review.

We hope this helps to understand this system. Please call for any further information or demonstrations needed.

Thank you for inviting us to assist.

We hope we made a difference.

Tallahassee Digital Group

Don, WA4DSW

Mary, KI 4JOO

Paul, KJ4G

The Lunch spot:





TARS Participates in BSA JOTA de Phil N4iph

J O T A



If you had your HF or 2 meter rig on over the weekend of October 21st-22nd you probably heard a number of young voices exchanging information. This was the annual (49th year) for the Scout Jamboree On The Air which is held the third weekend of October. Band conditions were not the best...but we managed to get a few Scouts and their dads on the air for the first time. A group of us met Friday afternoon at the BSA Council Office on Thomasville Road to decide where to put the antennas and set up the rigs. Bright and early Saturday morning (7 AM) we started to unpack the tables, chairs, coax, antennas and rigs. A sling-shot with a reel was used to get the support ropes in the trees and the first of several antennas was in place. Another antenna (inverted vee) was supported by the BSA Council's flagpole. Dan KI 4HGO made contact with Mike KI 4FGF in Thomasville on the 146.655 machine and told him about the poor HF band conditions and that if necessary we could rely on 2 meters until the conditions on HF improved. We were on the air a little after 8:30 AM after a short break and coffee & donuts. I want to thank Dan KI 4HGO, James KI 4YZM, Kimo K4IMO for helping set up the stations...thanks also to Alan W1ABT, Paul KJ4G, Farley KI 4LUN, and Mary KI 4JOO for stopping by the event...and thanks to Ray K5FKT for checking in with us through out the day

We didn't have as many Scouts participate as we have in the past when the event coincided with a "camporee" at the Boy Scout Camp south of Quincy...also a home FSU football game probably reduced the number that may have participated. Again it was a chance to check out our equipment and put up a multi-band station running on battery power. Thanks also to Chuck Ezell and the Suwannee River BSA Council for allowing us to operate from the Council offices.





THE SWAPP, BUY, SELL, &/or TRADE SHOPPE

Interested in a used beam antenna:

One Thunderbird Jr Tri-band beam with 30 or 40 ft of 213 coax. It's been up on a push up mast for the past 12 years, it can be tried out before anyone buys it.
Contact: Art (W1FJI)

Looking for a great HF transceiver:

As part of down-sizing everything around the house that's not being used on a regular basis, I have for sale a Yaesu FT-1000MP MarkV "Field". The radio is in excellent condition & works perfect. I'm the original owner. It is box-stock, no modifications, & the top cover has never been off. This is a base station HF transceiver covering 160 thru 10 meters with built-in power-supply, 500 Hz CW filter, & antenna tuner.



The owner's manual, all supplied accessories (including hand microphone), shipping carton & so-on are included. Non-smoker. \$1350.

73, Steve - AD4E

414-7235 or ad4e@arrl.net

Equipment needs a new home

As reported last month, local ham Vernon Bert, N4SGT, is now a silent key. His son Keith has asked me to help find Vernon's equipment a new home. The following is a list of what is available so you can think about whether it might have a place in your station.

The HF rig is a Kenwood TS-940, freshly back from a factory tune-up, with the matching SP-940 speaker with filters. It has a hand mike and a Nye straight key for CW. For tuning and antenna matching, it has an MFJ-949C antenna tuner and MFJ-260 dry dummy load. It's currently connected to a wire antenna of undetermined cut, but there is also a Cushcraft A3WS 3 element beam, brand new and never installed (box open but still inside the house), for 12 and 17 meters. For VHF, there is a Yaesu FT-2200, connected to a rotor mounted "end mount" 2meter/440 beam which I believe to also be from Cushcraft. By end mount, the antenna boom mounts on the end where the entire antenna is on one side of the vertical mast. That antenna would require removal by the purchaser.

This rig is powered by an Astron RS-20 power supply. Also on the desk are a Bearcat 800 XLT scanner and a Sears 40 channel/SSB CB. If you need an HT, there is a Yaesu FT-470 dual band with a

THE SWAPP, BUY, SELL, &/or TRADE SHOPPE CONTINUED

large battery pack and the matched power adapter for running it mobile and charging the battery at the same time. There are a few other antennas and pieces. I

f you have interest in any of this gear, and would like to discuss a purchase you can contact me by email at ke4fgf@surfsouth.com Vernon took exceptional care of his gear and the HF rig in particular, though an older model is in mint condition. I know it would be his wish for this gear to find itself a really good home, in particular with a new ham, wanting to use his newly acquired license...

Mike, KE4FGF

I you are interest in placing a notice in the newsletter, please e-mail me at KI4HGO@arri.net, with accurate description and contact information.

Please Support AE4S Repeater...

For the past 28 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 autopatch 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

SPARC Meeting

SPARC Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:30. The minutes of the August meeting were accepted as circulated. The treasury contains \$1212.86.

The next SPARC testing session will be January 9, 2007. Alan, N4KGT conducted the September testing session at which time Farley, KI 4LUN, received his general ticket. Congratulations Farley!

Warner circulated the certificate of appreciation which will be presented to Bob Rوتا.

A generator/tower maintenance session was scheduled for September 30th at 9:30 AM.

Home Depot requested we set up a display at the Capital Circle NE site on October 8 from 10-2. Greg agreed to head that effort.

Ed Palagyi gave an overview of up-coming contests. (A big one still to come is the 10-10 Fall Contest, CW, on October 28th.)

There was a report on the activity at the Lighthouse/Lightship weekend event station held August 19th. Several QSL cards were received from that event.

Dan, KI 4HGO, reported that TARS has begun a project to replace their communication van.

Paul asked/talked about the possibility of temporarily placing the club repeater on a 50 foot tower located on his brother's property in Crawfordville. Although this is still not what we want for a permanent installation, no one was opposed to having the repeater operational within the confines which that height would provide.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Miller

73 Ed KC4MHM

October SPARC MEETING



Guest Speaker was Michael Francis. He recounted his experiences in the space program starting with the Mercury program through most of the Apollo program. He presented an informative and entertaining program.

Thomasville Amateur Radio Club

Hi Folks,

What a month! We've just gone through the October Madness events and personally, my TV station is trying to finish up our DTV build-out, which has left me unavailable for just about everything. Our events ran really well from what I've been told as the build-out kept me from helping with everything but the Boston Mini-Marathon and we had a good turnout from that. I really want to thank Wynona, who stepped right up and covered me while I was doing other things. Also, we all owe a big "thank you" to her for providing breakfast in Boston this morning...that had to have her up REALLY EARLY. Now we have a Saturday off for the Lawrenceville Hamfest, and the following Saturday, November 11th, is the meeting and annual Fish Fry. Watching email going back and forth, if everyone who has indicated their attendance does come, we'll have a substantial crowd. The main course will be catfish and mullet and of course, everyone brings in a side dish or two and our spread gets pretty big. We have a good number of visitors who have indicated they are coming and our section manager Susan and her husband Mike are coming too...but they're "official members" now, not visitors. Please remember that this is a family affair, so if your family doesn't attend regularly (and I hope they know they're welcome to do that!) please be sure you have them along for this get-together.

November 11th is also special because it's Veteran's Day, and in keeping with tradition, the "back page" of this issue is devoted to one of our veterans, and will be a "little bit" different than what you might expect.

We handled a new event this past month, the Boy Scouts "Jamboree on the Air" also known as JOTA. Regretfully, I wasn't available for that, but new member John, KE4RWR, Mark, KD4EYF, and Buddy, WD4CJI, did get some of the kids on the air, despite poor band conditions. The site finally resolved itself to Hale's Landing in Bainbridge, as Camp Piney Woods was not available.

The Spaghetti 100 went well by reports and once again Wynona stepped up to coordinate the event. The stations involved there were KF4HSM, KF4GBS, KE4BZG, KD4EYF, KD4WQR (and Dawn), N4KXL, WD4CJI, and KC4LYC. The Boston Mini-Marathon stations were KE4BZG, KF4HSM (she helped with the parade too!), KI4HGO, K4HNT, KI4NBV, KI4QYQ (she helped hand out water at water-stop 1), AA4RD, KF4GBS, N4KXL, KC4LYC, WD4CJI, and two "rover" stations, KI4NBW and KE4FGF. Thank you all for coming out to help!

One of the things to be covered at the meeting portion of the Fish Fry will be a suggested slate of officers for 2007 from the nominations committee, formed at the last meeting and chaired by KF4HSM. If you have someone you'd like to see as a club officer, make sure to get that information to Wynona.

Also, the annual "Recognition Award" for 2006 will be presented and this year there are two, so be sure and be present in case that person turns out to be YOU!!

Our Tuesday Nets this month have been both interesting and fun to listen to. At the last meeting, when I asked for a volunteer, Sarah, KI4QYQ, immediately raised her hand and she's done a really commendable job all month. It was very apparent that she was having a blast and that in itself lent a different, light-hearted air to what can sometimes be "just another net"...but hey, "you know the deal"...right? Following up an exuberant 8 year old will probably be difficult, but Bobby agreed to do that and will be handling things in November and then you'll have to put up with me again in December, where there will also be the additional Christmas and New Year's Eve nets.

As we are approaching the first part of the holiday season, you'll note that Thanksgiving would follow the weekend where we'd have a mid-month breakfast and test session. I think, because of all the

other events we've just gone through and the fact that the meeting is pushed back a week, that we'll forego breakfast and make the Test Session by appointment only again. Now that's just my thoughts there, if you want to have both, we'll have both, so maybe the best thing is to discuss at the meeting and decide from there.

So, that's enough for this month. If we don't get to see you at the Fish Fry, I hope you and yours have a really fine Thanksgiving with plenty of food and close family members in attendance. For those of you that are coming, I look forward to seeing YOU and YOUR FAMILY and the rest of our extended "radio family" at the Pavo Civic Club on November 11th.

Happy Thanksgiving and 73
Mike

The Boston (Georgia) Mini Marathon:





Local Net News:

We are sorry to announce the **Seven Hills Two Meter Side Band Net** has been discontinued indefinitely.

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**

Thomasville Amateur Radio Club: This net meets 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 SSB:

The **Big Bend Six Meter Net** meets **Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m.** Eastern Time. 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. *This net is in need of net control operators, if you are interested please contact:* IVAN (K4SRB) at ivancook@peoplepc.com

Capital District ARES Net: Every Sunday, 8:00 p. m. Eastern on the AE4S repeater 146.655 (tone 94.8)

The Big Bend Hamster Net: This net meets on Tuesday nights at 7:30pm Eastern on the AE4S repeater 146.655 (tone 94.8). Call 574-7965 for more detail information.

A Few New UHF Nets:

The "Friday Friendly Net": It is moderated by Mary, KI4JOO. This net meets on Friday evenings on the 443.400 UHF repeater. The offset is 5 Mc plus and the PL encode/decode tone is 131.8. Check-ins can also join in via echolink by connecting to Node #3950 from other areas or from their PC. This net is scheduled for 1 hour. It's very informal and we discuss anything callers want to talk about.

The "Winlink Conference": This net is held every Wednesday evening starting around 8PM. This is moderated by Al, W3YVQ, out of Baltimore, Md. Hams can connect direct to "Fred's happy serve" on node #129799, or tune into 443.400 UHF repeater to participate. This is a loosely directed net and pertains solely about digital communications. Regulars check in from around the USA and discuss all issues of Em Comms using digital equipment. It's mostly a technical group. A large amount of the success of the TLH DIGITAL GROUP comes from the emering from this group. This net can be lengthy in time, sometimes lasting up to 3 hours.

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: Dan Moniz - KI 4HGO

Vice President: Alan Torledsky - W1ABT

Secretary: Chantal Blanton - KI 4NBU

Treasurer: Carlton W. Wells - AG4UT

TARS Committees

Repeater Trustee #1: Randy Pierce AG4UU

Repeater Trustee #2: Vacant

Newsletter Editor: Dan Moniz KI 4HGO

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.

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 KI 4HGO. Submissions for The Printed Circuit may be emailed to: [KI 4HGO@arrl.net](mailto:KI4HGO@arrl.net)

