



Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society March 2006



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 2, 2006.**

Annual TARS Auction and Cookout

De Carlton AG4UT

The annual TARS auction will be held on the first Saturday of March (March 4, 2006) 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 Carlton Wells at ag4ut@arrl.net or wellsc1@aol.com.

Informal Emcomm Classes being held at American Red Cross.

ARES EmComm Training Coordinator Gene Floyd, AI4KK has scheduled a new Emergency Communications Level 1 Class. The class is meeting Wednesday nights at the American Red Cross Chapter House. Although the first two lessons of this nine week course have been completed, there is ample time to order your book and attend the remaining classes.

David Minor, KI4LHH, who displayed outstanding skills as an instructor in the previous class, is serving as our lead instructor. In the first class, TARS president John Swindel, KI4EWB, assisted by delivering the module on Served Agencies.

If you need additional information you may contact David, Gene, or John.



Tallahassee Testing Information:

The ARRL/VEC administered FCC Amateur Radio License Examinations are provided in Tallahassee the first Tuesday of EVEN numbered months (February, April, June, etc.) in the conference room located at 2631 Municipal Way at 7:00 p. m.

ARES Happenings.

Dave Davis WA4WES

Capital District Emergency Coordinator

As the days tick down to the start of Hurricane season 2006, the Capital District of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service is making steady progress to prepare for it. Early Predictions warn that this year may continue the patterns of 2004 and 2005, and what we have seen in the past two years may be what we can expect for the next several years. If so, we are in for a rough year.

Yet we will survive and prosper, but to do so will require a sustained effort on our part. So, here is what is going and what we have planned to make sure the hams in the Capital District are ready.

Training. Gene Floyd, AI4KK and Dave Miner, KI4LHH, are currently conducting the ARRL's Emergency Communications Level I Course on Wednesday evenings from 6-9 p.m. The class lasts nine weeks, and they are providing excellent training in emergency communications fundamentals. You can still attend if you are interested, and I encourage you to do so.

A persistent rumor that I hear is that FEMA may require persons going into a disaster area to have taken ICS 700-Introduction to the National Incident Management System in order to be deployed. If so, and if you are interested in participating in Jump Teams such as the ones we sent to Mississippi and Louisiana last you may want to take that course. It takes about 3 hours to complete and can be done on line. It is not particularly hard, but it is written with a lot of "bureaucrateeze," so it can be slow reading. You may also want to take FEMA's ICS 100 Introduction to the Incident Command System." It is much more readable and interesting. Both courses can be found at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>.

Exercises. April and May are busy months for training exercises, and I encourage you to participate in them. The Capital City Cyclists sponsor the annual Tour of Southern Rural Vistas, TOSRV, and this year it will be held April 22-23. Alan Torledsky, W1ABT and Dan Moniz, KI4HGO, will be coordinating the TARS effort with the Thomasville and Albany clubs. The clubs have worked together for over a quarter of a century to make this bike ride a fun and safe experience, and one of the premier biking events in the south.

The Capital City Chapter of the American Red Cross will be conducting a one day hurricane training exercise on May 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is the third year Chris Floyd has done this, and it is designed to test our capabilities to respond to a local hurricane emergency.

On May 20-21, we will help the local chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association run their Airfest. TARS, SPARC, and the Thomasville clubs are working together to assist the EAA make their two day event safe and successful.

So, there is a lot coming up before June 1. If you can participate, I strongly encourage you to do so, even if it is only for an hour or two. You will gain valuable experience have fun, and learn a lot. Digital. Paul, KJ4G, Larry, KI4JOJ, Doug, KD4MOJ, and others are making great strides in developing our digital capability. As many of you know, we have had some ECHOLINK experiments on the Sunday Evening ARES net, and that has worked well. The digital group is also moving rapidly into APRS. Under Doug's guiding hand, they held a training/equipment session on February 26 that showed the 15 or so attendees how to connect their equipment so they can run APRS. This group is doing an important work. We will always need voice radio in an emergency, but digital communications greatly expands our capabilities to meet the needs of those in a crisis.

Next month, I will discuss the communications plan for the Capital District, specifically as it pertains to the Big Bend being hit by a category 1,2, or 3

"Vanity Call Sign" Renewal Fee

(from ARRL Website)

de Phil N4IPH

Amateurs that wanted "something a little different" than the call sign the FCC issued..have had the opportunity to select available "vanity call signs" for the past 10 years. As the window approaches to renew the very first Amateur Radio license issued under the Vanity Call Sign Program..the question arises..."Do I have to pay the vanity call sign fee again when I renew my license?" According to the FCC...the answer is YES! The ARRL thinks that it should be a "one time " payment and the license should be renewed with no further fee..." *The Commission's additional workload occurred at the time of issue"....renewal should be the same as any other license. The FCC continues.."Every day the Commission staff are engaged in activities involving amateur vanity call signs..such as protecting the assignment of vanity call signs...investigating complaints on the improper or illegal usage of call signs..requests for call signs that already assigned to someone else and all related research that is necessary to insure the proper assignment of call signs"* What is unusual is there are technicians with 1x3 call signs which should be issued to General Class Amateurs and above...not sure how well the FCC's system is working!

The first batch of vanity call sign renewal is due to start showing up in March of this year...that will be the beginning of the 90 day period that amateurs can request renewal of their vanity license (Part 97). Those that wish to renew/retain their vanity call signs need to send in the current \$21.90 for the 10 year license term. One interesting note is that the "*..ARRL will not process the renewal applications of Amateur Vanity Call Signs...the current VEC system is not equipped to handle the regulatory fees that vanity renewals will require"*

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the years..but is far lower than the \$70 the FCC first announced in its 1994 Report and Order. It was reduced to \$30 in 1996 and has varied from a low of \$12 to a high of \$50..currently it's \$21.90.

You can renew the vanity call signs through the use of the FCC's ULS-Universal Licensing System & payment may be made by using a credit card..or by downloading the proper form (FCC's Forms web page) and sending it with a check to the FCC. For more information check the FCC's website or the ARRL's Amateur Application Filing FAQ web page.

Thanks to those who attended the Jacksonville free Hamfest on October 1st. Grand prize winner: David Wright, ki4jds, ICOM ic-8v ht thanks to discount electronics, 541669 u. S. 1, just south of Callahan for the prize donation! Discount electronics carries ICOM ham radios, antennas, cable & accessories.

Digital Group Prepares for TOSROV APERS Capabilities

The Group met at (WA4WSD) Don's house to outfit laptops for APERS operations during TOSROV in April. Present was Mary ki4joo, Bill ki4jog, Larry ki4joj, Alan w1abt, John kg4gxt, Art w1fji, John ki4web, Paul kj4g, Dan ki4hgo, Farley, ki4lun.



Digital Group Meeting:

On Sunday 2/26/2006, we are going to have an AprsPoint install fest at Old Fire Station #2, 224 E 6th ave. Mainly this is about installing AprsPoint, including installing, configuring and advanced features. We may cover other software if time permits (I'll try and have AprsDOS and WinAprs and maybe Ui-View). There will probably a "lunch get-together" before-hand so probably monitoring 443.400 might be a good idea. An RSVP would be appreciated so I can figure out all who might be attending.

Directions: From Monroe St, take 6th ave east, a landmark is the old Duncan Doughnuts (now called Simply Delicious), the Fire Station is on the left about 50 feet from the intersection of Monroe & 6th (brick building with two white double doors on the front). Just before building, there is an "alley way" so turn left there and you will see the driveway that goes to the back of the fire station for parking.

Contact Info: Doug, KD4MOJ
Work: 891-4937
Home: 575-2022
Cell: 509-5270

Ham Radio "Gathering" at Falling Waters State Park

FYI.....Based on information from one of the other radio clubs in the area, the above event will be held on March 4th. If I find out that this date changes I will advise everyone ASAP. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there. Bring the family for some good fellowship and fun. The only restriction on tailgating at this event is that we will be in a State Park and they don't really like for us to sell items within the park. We normally tailgate as usual but we have to be very discrete as to how we handle our transactions any time the rangers are around our area. The pavilion we use for the event is at the very end of the park road where the entrance to the falls is located. We usually start arriving at around 9:00 AM CST. I don't think the park opens until 8:00 AM CST. The park is located a couple of miles south of the I-10 Chipley exit, off of highway 77. Go south on 77 from the exit for approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile or so and there will be a Park sign on the right hand side of the road. Turn left onto the road that leads to the park and follow it until you reach an intersection. Go through the intersection and follow the road into the park. I am sure you can find better directions on the Florida Parks web site. Anyway hope to see all of you over there on March 4th.

Thanks,

Ricky Whittington

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Volunteer Examiner
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No Decision From FCC on Morse Code

(from ARRL website)

de Phil N4IPH

Checking the ARRL website the other day there was an update on FCC's WT Docket 05-235..the document that may or may not affect the Morse Code requirements for HF operation in the Amateur Service. Last July (2005) the FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order* proposing the elimination of the 5 wpm Morse Code requirement (Element 1) for all class Amateur Licenses. The Amateur community filed more than 3800 comments on the proceedings within the comment period that ended October 31, 2005. *"There really is no news"* an FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staffer told the ARRL.. *"We certainly are not saving up any big announcements for Dayton Hamvention"* No one is expecting any major surprise..chances are that the FCC will follow their intentions and eliminate the code...The question is... *When?*

One thing to notice is that..The FCC **did not** propose to extend HF privileges to *current* Technician Licensees who have not passed the Morse Code examination..chances are that to gain HF...you must pass Element 3 General Class written examination to operate HF in the US. This decision in no way affects the CW allocations on the HF sub-bands...in effect...*CW allocations & privileges will neither increase or decrease...*

There are a number of other decisions affecting the Amateur Service such as...*Phone Band expansion (WT Docket 04-140)...Limitations of certain types of bulletins...Provide Color Coded Licenses...Limit certain types of one-way Voice transmissions (broadcasting)...Establish two classifications of Informational Broadcasts...Rules to Curb Certain Abuses in the Amateur Service and allow Instant Temporary Licenses (you can operate after you pass the exam !).*

So if you are waiting around for the FCC to eliminate the Morse Code Requirement for HF...you may have to wait a little longer! (*...the Federal Government works slowly...unless it's a tax increase..*). It depends on *how badly* you want to get on HF..and *how discipline* you are to buckling down and studying. Twenty minutes...2-3 times a day..with paper and pencil *..not thinking what the characters are..but listening and writing the characters on paper*. There is no shortcut...you have to put in the time and effort.

For the past three and a half years we have offered Morse Code instruction and practice during the first *ninety* minutes of our Red Cross sponsored License Classes. A large number of those that followed John's (AD4DO) advice and did the practice we recommended have come through during the testing sessions. It may have taken 2 trys..but they usually passed it with little trouble the second time around. If you haven't tried the G4FON Morse Code Software...you may want to download a free copy from Ray's site www.g4fon.co.uk . I include version 6 on the CD that is provided to the "hams to be" at the beginning of the license classes. Set the code character generation to 15 and the code speed to 7...that comes close to the exam. I'm sure that there is probably an updated version by now..this version allows you to make MP3 practice files! So you can add them to your iPod or other MP3 player and practice (with paper and pencil) when you're away from your computer. Several months ago I did a article in the newsletter on how to use the program.

Don't wait for the FCC to make a decision on the elimination of the Morse Code requirement...Just think of all the DX and special event stations you are missing!!

Field Day- GOTA Station Rule Changes

(from ARRL website)

de Phil N4IPH

Shortly after the ARRL released the 2006-Field Day Package..I thought I would look over the packet to see if there were any major changes..My main interest was what we could have our newly licensed Amateurs do during *their* first Field Day experience. The past few years I have tried to help the newly licensed hams (usually technicians from my classes) get a taste of HF operation. In the past we have constructed "from scratch" several HF dipole antennas which worked well with the GOTA (Get On The Air) station. Many had their first experience in measuring, soldering and installing PL259 connectors to the coax. In addition we used an antenna tuner with 450 Ω "ladder-line" to help tune multiple bands with one dipole during the exercise.

Some notes of interest concerning the GOTA Station's logging process seemed fairly intensive...I may not have noticed them last year..but feel we need to try and increase the GOTA total score this year. The GOTA Station is designed to be operated by newly licensed amateurs, inactive amateurs under *their* operating privileges or under the direction of a Control Operator (GOTA Coach) with appropriate license class. If the station is operated by a *participant* outside the Novice or Technician frequencies...a Control Operator with necessary privileges should be *physically present* during the operations of the station. Maximum power of the GOTA station is limited to 150 watts (5 watts if operating under the QRP multiplier class). A maximum of 500 QSO's made by the GOTA Station may be claimed for credit by its "primary" Field Day operation...additional bonus points may be earned to increase the over-all score. The GOTA station may operate only on HF Bands and with only one transmitted signal at any time..(you can have multiple transceivers and antennas..but only one in operation during a specific time). Third Party Regulations are in effect for non-licensed participants operating under the direction of a valid Control Operator.

The key to the GOTA operation is that the...*operators must not only make the contact...but also keep their own log!* The GOTA Coach may be there to answer questions and talk them through contacts..but may not make QSO's or do the logging. *To gain the additional GOTA points a GOTA Coach must be present at all times the station is in operation!* If an operator makes 50 valid HF contacts..they receive 50 bonus points for a total of 100 points (with a maximum of 500 GOTA bonus points for the station)...this includes the 500 QSO limit for this particular station). No single GOTA operator may earn more than 100 of the GOTA bonus points....there is no partial credit provided. The GOTA log should show the operator's name, call sign (if licensed), time of contact (UTC), frequency/band, RST S/R, exchange and any notes of interest about the contact.

Additional bonus points may be earned for Field Day Youth Participation...A 20 point bonus (maximum of 100) may be earned by any Class A, C, D, E or F group for each participant age 18 and younger that completes a valid QSO. This would be a good chance to involve Scout Units (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies...) so we need to get the word out to these and similar organizations.

Mid-Month Breakfast at Thomasville

Members of both TARS and TARC meet for breakfast at the regular TARC midmonth get together at the Plaza Restaurant in Thomasville. TOSROV and Airfest were hot topics.



Chris Floyd gives presentation to the **SPARC** regarding the upcoming hurricane season and the threat of the bird flu pandemic.



Silent Keys

From ARRL Headquarters, March 2006

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

W1YOU Hussey III, George A., Ocean Ridge, FL
WA4EUY Hinkley, Henry R., Saint Augustine, FL
NF40 Jones, Earle W., Hampton, FL
W4RIO Cain Jr, Lee R., Sarasota, FL
WB4WHR Spicer, Claude J., Crestview, FL
WA8DJR Palmer, David, Sun City Center, FL

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

NASA, INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS TAP TWO HAMS AS NEXT SPACE STATION CREW
NASA and its International Space Station partners have announced that astronaut Jeff Williams, KD5TVQ, and cosmonaut Pavel Vinogradov, RV3BS, will be the ISS Expedition 13 crew. They'll arrive aboard the orbiting outpost in early April to relieve the current crew of ISS Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, and Valery Tokarev. Vinogradov will be the Expedition 13 commander, while Williams, a US Army colonel who's logged one space flight, will serve as ISS flight engineer and NASA ISS science officer.

Wakulla County United Fire Fighter's Association

Presents

OPEN HOUSE

March 4, 2006 9:00am-4:00pm

**Wakulla County Fire Fighter's Training Grounds
(Beside the County Jail & The Animal Shelter)**

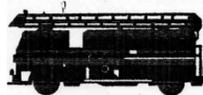
Come see what its like to be a Fire Fighter

Fire Fighter Competitions
Community Participation Events
Smoke Trailer open to Public
Jaws of Life demonstrations
Burn Building open to public
Complimentary Lunch
Much More.....

All Community residents are encouraged to come.

Plan this very important Family Day of Fun, and support your local
Fire Fighters at the same time.

For more information call: 926-2010 or 519-3189



TARS February Program (Radio Controlled Airplanes) by Theo Titus:



The Lunch Bunch!!! Catch them at the Golden Coral Fridays for lunch.



Be on the lookout for these upcoming events:

TOSROV: April 22 & 23, 2006

AIRFEST: May 20 & 21, 2006

Net News:

Don't forget these popular nets in the Tallahassee area:

2 METERS

The **Seven Hills Two Meter Side Band Net** meets every Sunday night at 8:45pm following the ARES Net. The frequency is: 144.208 USB Everyone is welcomed.

73's John KG4GXT

6 METERS (revised)

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.

73's IVAN (K4SRB)

New UHF Nets:

Friday Night informal net at 8pm on the KJ4G repeater: 443.40offset: 448.40 - tone:131.8. For those using Echolink the Node is 3950. Everyone is invited to participate, it's a good way to learn your way around Echolink. Please observe Echolink protocol: pause 4-5 sec before you transmit to allow the links to drop.

Another new net: "Happy Times" Winlink net on Wednesday night on Echolink. For additional information please contact Mary KI4JOO

SPARK Wednesday Night Net Meeting 2000 Hours 146.550 MHz Simplex

Thomasville Amateur Radio Club net every Tuesday night at 8:00pm on 147.195MHZ Duplex. Club meetings on the first Saturday of each month at the Plaza Restaurant at 7:30pm

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.

TARS Officers

President: John Swindle - KI4EWB
Vice President: Dan Moniz KI4HGO
Secretary: John Love - NZ4QJ
Treasurer: Carlton W. Wells - AG4UT

TARS Committees

Repeater Trustee #1: Randy Pierce AG4UU
Repeater Trustee #2: Vacant
Newsletter Editor: Dan Moniz KI4HGO
Historian: Shawn Wilson AG4VE
Equipment Manager: Carlton Wells AG4UT
Education: Phil Ashler N4IPH
Special Events: Carliane Johnson KG4CJT
Webmaster: David A. Heupel WE4RA

Upcoming Events:

TARS Meetings: Every first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. EDT at Publix at Ocala Rd.
Friday Lunch starting 11:30 a. m. EDT at Golden Coral on No. Monroe St.
Capital District ARES Net: Every Sunday, 8:00 p. m. Eastern on the AE4S repeater 146.655.
North Florida ARES Net: Every morning, except Sunday on 3950 KHz at 9:00 a. m. Eastern.
The Seven hills two meter side band net meets every Sunday night at 8:45pm. on 144.208 USB
The Big Bend Six Meter Net meets Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. on 50.150 MHz upper sideband.
The Friday Night informal net at 8pm on the KJ4G repeater: 443.40 /offset: 448.40 tone: 131.8. Everyone is invited to participate.

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 KI4HGO. Submissions for The Printed Circuit may be emailed to: KI4HGO@arrl.net

