

# The Printed Circuit

The Monthly Publication of the  
Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society  
May, 2020



**T**ALLAHASSEE  
**A**MATEUR  
**R**ADIO  
**S**OCIETY

**K4TLH**  
**.NET**

Facebook.com/  
**K4TLH**

P.O. Box 37127  
Tallahassee, FL 32315



## MINUTES OF THE MAY 7, 2020 TARS MEETING

Compiled and Submitted by: Tom Brooks (K4TB) – TARS Secretary

(NOTE: The business portion of the meeting was conducted via radio net due to the Covid-19 Virus Pandemic. The program portion was conducted via a video teleconference that followed the business meeting.)

Call to Order: Gerry Gross (WA6POZ), as net control for the weekly TARS Information Net, opened the net at 7 PM on the 147.03 MHz repeater and later turned the net over to President Don Pace (KK4SIH) for use with the meeting.

Check-ins: Chuck, K1KMR – Chris, K4GFD – Norm, \*K4SBZ – Stan, K4TB – Tom, K9FLA – Phil, KA5USN – Chief, KD4MOJ – Doug, KK4SIH – Don, KM4BRR – Richard, KM4YHR – John, KN4FCC – Todd, KN4SCE – Ryan, KN4TDL – Jeff, KN4TRT – Paul, KN4WOW – Ed, KN4WSH – Stephen, KN4YRH, Austin, KQ3O – Justin, \*N4JEL – Mike, N4JL – Jerry, N4SVC – John, NT4B – Bob, W4LCR – Clay, #W4SKG – David, WA4WES – David, WA6POZ – Gerry.

(# = On voice net but did not check in; \* = On ZOOM but not voice net)

#### Business Committees:

Minutes: Secretary Tom Brooks (K4TB): Tom said the March and the April minutes were published in the Printed Circuit newsletters and need approval. President Pace asked for any changes or corrections, and hearing none he moved to approve both minutes. Member-at- Large Phil Fusilier (Chief - KA5USN) seconded. A show of hands was not possible so President Pace asked for anyone opposed to speak up. There were no “nay” votes so both minutes were approved. Treasury Report: Treasurer Doug Ferrell (KD4MOJ) said the March balances didn't get published in the (March) newsletter so he will get that sent out. He said the balances for April (as of 1-April-20) are shown in the April newsletter. (In the newsletter the report for 1-April-20 was: Checking \$3,853.16, Savings \$3,101.52, Total \$6,954.68.) Doug said as of April 22nd the only changes from prior were an expenditure from checking of \$284.57, for the storage room rental, and an income of \$0.39 for savings from interest earned. Chief asked if we had received anything from Amazon; Doug said that we received \$28.21 in February and said he didn't know if they pay out quarterly or what. President Pace (KK4SIH) moved to accept the April treasurer report and Chief (KA5USN) seconded. With no “nays” the report was accepted.

Education and Testing: Norm (K4GFD) said there has not been a class recently due to the pandemic and the next class may be in June or July. He said Gerry and he were planning a testing session for 5 or less but that is still in the works.

Repeaters: No report.

#### Old Business/ New Business/ Discussion/Announcements:

Field Day: Jerry (N4JL) said that due to the virus it does not look practical to have Field Day this year. Chief (KA5USN) said he does not know if the parks will be open before July. Jerry moved that we not do Field Day this year. Chief seconded. After much discussion from various attendees, Tom (K4TB) moved that we table Jerry's motion until the June meeting and then decide whether to participate in Field Day. Bob (W4LCR) seconded. Due to the difficulty of a roll call vote or a show of hands, the President elected to suspend the rules and table the first motion. He asked if anyone had an objection to his action and no objection was heard.

Discussion/Announcements: Gerry (WA6POZ) mentioned that all day on Thursday, May 14, on the website [www.contestuniversity.com](http://www.contestuniversity.com) , there will be various activities available via ZOOM for free which may be of interest to us.

Adjournment – The net was closed and meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:35 pm.

Program: Immediately following the business meeting the attendees joined a ZOOM video teleconference led by Tom (K4TB). He presented a talk and demonstration entitled “Using Amateur Radio Satellites with SatPC32”, a satellite tracking computer program offered through the AMSAT (Amateur Satellite) Corporation. Tom described the history of the program, and his success with using it. He demonstrated how the program appears on the screen and how to use it. He showed a photo of antennas he uses for satellite operation. He ended the presentation with short video showing him using the program with the antennas and an Icom 9700 transceiver to follow the AO-7 satellite. He encouraged the attendees to try amateur radio satellite communications. The presentation was concluded at 8:33 pm.

## **TARS Treasurer's Report**

**Submitted by Doug Ferrell,**  
**KD4MOJ, Treasurer**

	<u>for period</u>	<u>year-to-date</u>
<u>Beginning</u>	<u>26-May-20</u>	<u>Jan 1, 2020</u>
<u>Balances:</u>		
<u>Cash on hand</u>	\$ -	\$ -
<u>Checking</u>	\$ 3,568.59	\$ 2,688.20
<u>Account:</u>		
<u>Savings Account:</u>	\$ 3,101.91	\$ 3,101.52
<u>Total:</u>	\$ 6,670.50	\$ 5,789.72

### **Summary of Month's Activity:**

<u>Total Receipts:</u>	\$ -	\$ 1,398.83
<u>Total</u>	\$ -	\$ 499.82
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
<u>Receipts Derived From:</u>		
<u>Members Dues:</u>	\$ -	\$ 680.00
<u>Fifty/Fifty</u>	\$ -	\$ 42.00
<u>Donation (KI4NBU &amp; N1HJ)</u>	\$ -	\$ 630.00
<u>Veteran's Radio</u>	\$ -	\$ -
<u>Fund</u>		

<u>Field Day Radio Fund</u>	\$ -	\$ -
<u>Interest (Savings) smile.amazon.com</u>	\$ 18.23	\$ 46.44
<u>Total</u>	\$ 18.23	\$ 1,398.83

<u>Expenditures:</u>		
<u>American Red Cross:</u>		
<u>Fifty-Fifty</u>	\$ -	\$ -
<u>ARRL Insurance</u>	\$ -	\$ -
<u>Spagetti 100 - TARC</u>	\$ -	\$ -
<u>TARS &amp; Feathers Plaque</u>	\$ -	\$ -
<u>Storage &amp; Supplies</u>	\$ -	\$ 284.57
<u>Field Day</u>	\$ -	\$ -
<u>VE Expenses</u>	\$ -	\$ -
<u>Tower Maintenance</u>	\$ -	\$ -
<u>Florida Dept of State</u>	\$ -	\$ 61.25
<u>Post Office Box:</u>	\$ -	\$ 154.00
<u>Total:</u>	\$ -	\$ 499.82

Transfer Checking -> Savings:

Ending Balances - Apr 22, 2020:

<u>Cash on hand</u>	\$ -	\$ -
<u>Checking Account</u>	\$ 3,586.82	\$ 3,586.82
<u>Savings Account</u>	\$ 3,101.91	\$ 3,101.91
<u>Total</u>	\$ 6,688.73	\$ 6,688.73

<u>*Veteran's Radio Fund</u>	\$ 500.00
<u>*Field Day Radio Fund</u>	\$ 697.00

## Ham Happenings

June 2020 DX

It is possible that some of the listing stations canceled their plans due to the Corvis-19 STAYHOME, NHS, THANKS and other stations are special due to CORVIS-19 and the orders to 'STAY HOME' ??? will be on as long as CORVIS-19 is around

From	To	Prefix	Call, () is the IOTA designation
01-Jun		???	5T 5T5PA
01-Jun		???	8P 8P6DR
01-Jun	01-Jun		CE9 8J1RL (AN-015)
01-Jun	26-Jun	FY	FY4VA
01-Jun	02-Jun	G	GB4DLS
01-Jun	30-Jun	GI	GB75VEC
01-Jun	01-Jun	HR	HR5/F2JD
01-Jun	15-Jun	I	4U9STAYHOME
01-Jun	30-Jun	OE	OE50MHZ
01-Jun	06-Jun	VE	CF2T
01-Jun	31-Aug	VK	VI250COOK
01-Jun	???	VK9/N	VK9NK
01-Jun	???	VU	AT2CVD
01-Jun	???	VU	AT2RB
01-Jun	???	VU	AT2SON
01-Jun	???	VU	AT9FC
01-Jun	26-Jul	XE	4A60 stations
01-Jun	14-Jun	XU	XU7AMG
01-Jun	30-Jun	V6	V6TOPG2020 (OC
05-Jun	12-Jun	T8	T88FT, T88IH (OC-009)
06-Jun	20-Jun	F	TM80CDG
10-Jun	17-Jun	ZF	ZF2FD
17-Jun	24-Jun	VP2V	VP2V/W9DR
21-Jun	22-Jun	GM	GB2KDR
21-Jun	3-Jul	ZA	ZA/HG2DX
27-Jun	28-Jun	GM	GB2KDR
30-Jun	14-Jul	FP	FP/KV1J

DX sources - The Daily DX, 425 DX News, or DX Zone

## Contesting

With the current stay at home restrictions, many radio amateurs are finding more time to devote to their hobby. There are many ways to enjoy amateur radio, but RadioSport (contesting) is the most competitive. You may compete against other testers or against yourself. Although the bands may be crowded, you can enjoy RadioSport from the privacy of your own radio shack.

June is not a very busy month for contesting, although there is at least one activity every weekend. There are two major contests this month, but they are band-specific. There are two State QSO Parties and a few DX contests. WA7BNM Contest Calendar lists 90 RadioSport activities for June worldwide, more than enough to keep you busy depending on your interest – phone, CW or digital. The minor events are too numerous, too focused, or too short to warrant attention here. The more significant ones are described below. Although it is not an adjudicated contest, June is the month for Field Day.

### Preview of June Weekends

#### June 6-7

The 12-hour Kentucky QSO Party is a great way to make contacts with the many rare counties in Kentucky on different bands using any mode. Like most state QSO parties, it will provide contacts needed for awards like Worked All States (WAS) and County Hunters. There are also four bonus stations, each worth 100 points per band. The bonus stations for the 2020 KYQP will be W4NJA, KY4KY, K4KCG and K4MSU. Everyone sending in a log will receive a Certificate of Participation. Like other QSO Parties, the Kentucky QSO Party is a relaxed and welcoming event.

The VK Shires Contest this weekend is just like a state QSO party. The multipliers are the 544 shires in Australia. Shires can be worked on each of the non-WARC bands 160 through 10 meters. It is a world-works-Australia contest using CW or SSB. The exchange for us (we are DX) is signal report and CQ zone.

#### June 13-14

Many VHF/UHF operators look forward to the ARRL June VHF Contest on the

second weekend in June when amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. All legal modes are permitted. While CW and SSB/Phone are most common, MSK144, FT8 and FM-Only are gaining popularity. Other popular modes include PSK31, FSK441 and JT65. Participants new to VHF and above contesting should consult the General Rules for all ARRL Contests Above 50 MHz <http://www.arrl.org/general-rules-for-arrl-contests-above-50-mhz>. There are several differences from HF contests, e.g., there are power limits per band and self-spotting is permitted. June is usually a good month for propagation above 50 MHz. There have already been many openings on 6 meters.

The Portugal Day Contest is a CW and SSB world-works-world DX contest. Multipliers are Portuguese districts and the DXCC entities. All stations with 75 or more QSOs may receive a Participation Certificate.

The World Wide South America CW Contest is a world-works-DX contest with two types of multipliers: CQ Zone and DXCC entity. QSOs between stations in the same country do not count, except to receive zone and country multipliers. The exchange is RST and CQ Zone. Club competition is included for all active clubs on the CQ Active Club List.

June 20-21

There are a variety of contests this weekend. The Stew Perry Topband Challenge was created by a small group of contesters who were interested in 160 meters (TopBand). The most unique feature of this major contest is that the point value of QSOs depends on the distance between the two stations. You are given one point per QSO plus another point for each 500 kms of distance. Points are also multiplied for lower power categories, for both the sending and the receiving stations. The popularity of this contest continues to grow, but the band tends to be less crowded than the other contests, making it easier to work DX (if you are fortunate enough have a 160 Meter antenna).

The annual West Virginia QSO Party is held each year to celebrate West Virginia's admission to the Union on June 20, 1863. (If June 20th is not a Saturday, the QSO Party is held the Saturday immediately prior.) To encourage contest participation, remote operating is permitted and the use of spotting nets is allowed. The 55

counties count as multipliers. A bonus of 100 points per band is awarded for working W8WVA. The digital modes of PSK and RTTY are permitted, along with the usual CW and SSB.

CW ops can look for more DX in the All Asian DX Contest, CW. Bands include 160 meters, along with 80 through 10, to coincide with the Stew Perry Topband Challenge. QSOs must be with stations located in Asia. The exchange is RST plus your age (YLS may use "00"). Awards are for each category in each entity submitting logs. The US Awards are by zone (3, 4 and 5). The highest scorer on each Continent in the Single Operator Multi Band category will receive a certificate from the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan.

June 27-28

The fourth weekend of June is usually reserved for the ARRL Field Day. Few contests want to compete with FD's popularity. The event, although not an adjudicated contest, appeals to most testers. The ARRL has announced that there will be no rule changes to accommodate COVID-19 restrictions. Because this event is highly oriented toward club activity, actual participation will be drastically changed this year. Most entries will be home operator rather than as part of a club. Classes D and E are for home operators, with D representing operators using commercial power and E being those who have emergency power. Class D operators receive no points for contacts with other Class D stations. Regardless of the current health restrictions, the objective of Field Day is to demonstrate amateur radio's capabilities and to have fun.

This year, with the pandemic restrictions, there may be some interest in the other contests this weekend. The His Majesty King of Spain Contest, SSB, is another world-works-world contest but this one gives you extra points for working Spanish stations. Multipliers are the Spanish provinces.

The Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest provides a DX contest for the PSK63 and RTTY-75 baud modes only. It is a world-works-world contest with multipliers for DXCC entities and Ukrainian oblasts. The exchange is RST plus serial number. Use of DX clusters is permitted, but no self-spotting.



## Summary

Contest	Type	Date	Time	CW	SSB	RTTY	Other Digital
VK Shires Contest	DX	6-Jun	0600Z	C	S		
Kentucky QSO Party	QSO	6-Jun	1400Z	C	S	R	D
Portugal Day Contest	DX	13-Jun	1200Z	C	S		
GACW WWSA CW DX Contest	DX	13-Jun	1500Z	C			
ARRL June VHF Contest	Major	13-Jun	1800Z	C	S	R	D
All Asian DX Contest, CW	DX	20-Jun	0000Z			R	
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Major	20-Jun	1500Z	C			
West Virginia QSO Party	QSO	20-Jun	1600Z	C	S	R	D
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB	DX	27-Jun	1200Z		S		
Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest	DX	27-Jun	1200Z			R	D

As you can see, this month has something for any taste, major contest or small, CW, SSB, RTTY or other digital. If you have never contested, everyone has a first time. Give one of them a try.

## About Participating

Before participating in any of these contests or events, please familiarize yourself with the times, frequencies, exchanges, rules, etc. associated with the event. The WA7BNM Contest Calendar (<http://www.contestcalendar.com//index.html>) can provide most of the information, as well as a link to the contest's home page, which will give you a "flavor" for the contest and let you know about any plaques or other special prizes like a bottle of wine or a frozen salmon. Alternatively, you can Google the name of the contest or event and go directly to their home page.

If you are a new or casual tester, there is never a better time to start or return to contesting than now. Pick one of the easier contests, such as a State QSO Party or many of the minor DX contests, and jump in. (No, first read the rules as suggested above.) You do not have to score a lot of points but do spend some time in the chair having fun. As you are enjoying the leisurely pace of one of these slower contests, picture it on steroids as a major contest with wall-to-wall stations all calling CQ. After it is completed, submit your log and report your activity on 3830Scores. Then look at the contest results on 3830 to see how you compared with all others. With this contest completely under your belt, check the Schedule of Contests to see what next weekend has in store for you.

RadioSport (Amateur Radio contesting) is a diverse and somewhat complex subject area. If you have any questions about contesting or any suggestions or comments about this column, please address them directly to Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ, at [K4SBZ.Stan@gmail.com](mailto:K4SBZ.Stan@gmail.com).

## **The following comes from the ARRL website**

A Message for ARRL Member Volunteers for Responding to COVID-19  
[http://www.arrl.org/images/view/News/COVID19/Stay\\_Safe\\_COVID\\_19.jpg](http://www.arrl.org/images/view/News/COVID19/Stay_Safe_COVID_19.jpg)  
March 26, 2020

Dear Member Volunteer,

The ARRL staff team has received many inquiries from our members seeking guidance or offering suggestions during the current crisis. We hope everyone is adhering to CDC and local health department guidelines by staying home, maintaining safe distances when around people, and following sanitary practices. Many radio clubs have canceled upcoming meetings, exam sessions, hamfests & conventions. ARRL has established a web page with news, information, cancellations, and resources of interest to ARRL members and our global amateur radio community. Visit [www.arrl.org/COVID-19](http://www.arrl.org/COVID-19).

With many radio amateurs staying home there are opportunities to get on the air and call CQ or meet on the local repeater. We certainly don't need a reason to get on the air, after all, that's what hams do.

In terms of ham radio preparedness, this current crisis has not disrupted communications on a national scale. We know many of our members practice and train for a personal radio communication capability that can be called on when disaster strikes. Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) volunteers and our partners in providing emergency communications already routinely monitor the information and requests from Emergency Coordinators and the like. Station and skills readiness are tenets of the Amateur Radio Service – and this current crisis hasn't changed this.

If you are a radio amateur serving your community through ARES or by

volunteering with any of our partners in providing public service communications, thank you. ARES members routinely monitor the information and requests from their ARES Emergency Coordinators. We are grateful for all the ways you stand-ready to support the emergency service personnel in your communities when disaster strikes.

Again, we encourage all member volunteers to remain safe, and to follow the guidelines and requests of your national and local government officials and public health leaders. For those members who are healthy and safe at home, we can encourage you to get on the air:

Get on the air. As online fatigue and a feeling of isolation will inevitably creep into our “new normal,” being on-air will introduce variety into our communication practices. As many of us are now homebound or working and studying from home, turning on a radio to connect with your ham radio peers will be welcome respite! Radio Clubs. Think of this current challenge as an opportunity to encourage our club’s members to get on the air. Move (short) meetings to the club’s repeater, and encourage check-ins. Organize skeds, nets, and challenges. Try different bands (HF, VHF, UHF...) and modes. This will also help new radio amateurs gain practical operating experience.

Readiness. Station and skills readiness are tenets of the Amateur Radio Service. Any time we spend on the air will contribute to developing and practicing our personal radio communication capability.

Every day, we draw inspiration from members who share our passion for radio communications. We are grateful to support radio amateurs in our common pursuit of skill, service, and discovery. ARRL remains steadfast in serving you.

Thank you. We hope that you and your loved ones remain safe.

## **The following was copied from the May 21, 2020 issue of the ARRL Letter**

### **Amateur Radio Gearing Up for Predicted "Above Average" Atlantic Hurricane Season**

Long-range forecasts for the 2020 Atlantic Basin hurricane season, which begins on June 1 and extends until November 30, anticipate above-normal activity. The National Hurricane Center (NHC) 2020 outlook calls for a season about 140%

more active than average, with four Category 3 to Category 5 hurricanes. The 2019 season saw three major hurricanes (out of six).

"The above-average prediction is largely due to the hot Atlantic and Caribbean waters and lack of a substantial El Niño in the Pacific," the NHC explained, noting that the combination of a busy hurricane season and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic could create a nightmare scenario for affected areas. FEMA and local emergency management agencies are already issuing COVID-19 guidelines for hurricane shelters, which include face masks and social distancing.

The NHC Annual Station Test -- to check readiness of amateur radio stations and operators -- takes place on Saturday, May 30, 1300 - 2100 UTC. The NHC's WX4NHC will be on the air, marking its 40th year of public service at the NHC. Julio Ripoll, WD4R, the Assistant Amateur Radio Coordinator at the NHC, said the event offers an opportunity for radio amateurs worldwide to exercise the sorts of communications available during severe weather. "We will be making brief contacts on many frequencies and modes, exchanging signal reports and basic weather data -- sunny, rain, temperature, etc.) with any station in any location," Ripoll said.

Operation will be on HF, VHF, UHF, APRS, and Winlink. WX4NHC will center its activity on the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) frequencies of 14.325 MHz and 7.268 MHz, depending on propagation, but will operate elsewhere as conditions dictate. WX4NHC will also operate on the VoIP Hurricane Net from 2000 until 2100 UTC.

Dr. Philip J. Klotzbach et al of the Colorado State University (CSU) Department of Atmospheric Science cite a variety of factors that led them to conclude this hurricane season could get serious. Pointing to the "somewhat above normal" tropical Atlantic sea-surface temperatures, the scientists estimate "about eight hurricanes," four of them major, during the 2020 season.

"I must say, I'm not liking what I'm seeing," reacted Hurricane Watch Net Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, pointing to additional extended forecasts posted by Tropical Storm Risk (TSR), the University of Arizona, and North Carolina State University. The TSR forecast calls for three major hurricanes, while the University of Arizona and North Carolina State predict between three and five major hurricanes.

"Since 2014, the Hurricane Watch Net has been very busy," Graves told ARRL. "We've had 20 net activations for 19 hurricanes and one tropical storm. Since 2015, we've worked nine major land-falling hurricanes, including four land-falling Category 5 storms."

Graves pointed out that the past six hurricane seasons not only were busy and historic but very deadly, and he's hoping the 2020 hurricane season will not turn in a repeat performance.

**Below is the After Action Report for the May 16 exercise Amateurs from Southeast Alabama, South Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle had with the National Weather Service Office in Tallahassee.**

This is the after action report for the May 16 exercise with the National Weather Service and amateur radio operators in Southeast Alabama, South Georgia, and the Panhandle of Florida or the jurisdiction of the National Weather Service Office in Tallahassee

1. The exercise. The exercise was conducted on Saturday May 16 from 0900 to 1200 hours. The scenario had a category 3 hurricane coming ashore approximately in the Panama City area, moving northeasterly towards Dothan, Alabama, and then swinging easterly to stall over Albany, dumping several inches of rain on that city and surrounding areas. High winds, heavy rains, and tornadoes developed
2. The Plan. Hams within the jurisdictional area were to make weather and damage reports to the National Weather service using HF(3.955 MHz), two meters(147.03, and 145.33 MHz repeaters), and Winlink. Three stations in Tallahassee (W4LCR, KN4FCC, and WA4WES) would receive the weather traffic and then send the reports to the NWSchatroom of Lauren Nash, one of the meteorologists for the Tallahassee office.
3. How the exercise evolved. For the most part the exercise went as planned. The major disappointment was HF. The 3.955 MHz frequency was essentially dead, although it began to see life towards the end of the exercise. Clay, W4LCR, monitored that frequency and made 6 contacts, but was unable to receive any weather traffic. Instead, the south Georgia and southeast Alabama stations used either the 147.03 repeater or Winlink. Todd was the NCS for the 147.03 repeater,

and was kept very busy for the exercise and received approximately 40 weather/damage reports. Junior, KG4ITD, who lives in Blountsdtown, relayed about 15 Bay and other county reports to Todd. That went very well. Surprisingly we had about 15-20 messages sent via Winlink, which were also "cut and pasted" to the NWS chatroom. When the HF link to south Georgia failed to develop, WX4SGA, who lives in south Georgia, stepped up and sent messages from that area to Tallahassee via Winlink. That worked very well. Towards the end of the exercise, 80 meters seemed to come alive, and perhaps if we had gone longer we could have sent traffic on 3.955 MHz.

#### 4. Problems areas and possible solutions.

a. HF was the major problem. Even the alternate 40 meter frequency of 7.242 MHz was dead. We need to use propagation charts to see what frequencies would have worked best for the time of day of the exercise.

b. Todd was the only operator on the 147.03 repeater. At times he left the air so he could send traffic to the NWS chatroom. An alternate NCS should be appointed to watch the frequency for the times the NCS is away.

c. Multiple time references were used, such as eastern, central, zulu, and gmt. The plan should clearly say what time zone is used.

d. Locations. Messages referred to the locations of the weather observations using latitudes/longitudes, grid square designations, and street locations. Using Lat/Long was problematic in that mistakes were easy to make. Grid squares are probably unfamiliar to the NWS personnel. Street locations can work if the city is also included., but poses problems if the NWS personnel are unfamiliar with the city/town.

e. Operators speaking too fast. Information was often given at talking speed, which could lead to many repeats or errors. Slow down.

f. Message format. A message format to report information was provided in the plan, but several stations sent traffic using other formats. Generally, this worked out OK, but the standardized format helped the NWS decipher messages

#### 5. What went well.

a. Overall, stations did a good job making weather reports. The NWS prefers measured readings, particularly of windspeeds,

b. Net control stations did a good job of controlling their nets. There was no confusion, and operators waited patiently as the NCS worked through multiple stations attempting to call the NCS

c. The repeater relay system that was used or developed worked well, especially with Junior, KG4ITD and Aulton and Pat, WX4SGA and K4NRD

d. Everyone worked to make the problem play work, and it did. This was impressive considering that many of the operators had never worked with or talked to the other hams.

6. Proposal for future training. With hurricane season upon us the following is suggested:

a. We should have regular trials regarding HF frequencies. What works best at what times of day and distances. Propagation charts should be used.

b. We should develop closer connections with our neighbors to the north. Besides weather reports, they may be willing to help relay traffic or even be Net Control stations should a storm hit our state. Likewise, we could help them if a hurricane impacts Georgia or Alabama.

c. Winlink was a pleasant surprise. That digital technique should be promoted with weekly tests or exercises

d. Deliberate efforts should be made to discover repeater footprints so that if necessary they can be used to relay message traffic from stations we normally do not communicate with.

e. We should make a conscious, deliberate effort to develop greater ties with the hams in Alabama and Georgia. Perhaps we could have a weekly(Saturday morning?) test on 3.955 MHz and 7.242 MHz.

Thanks to all who participated in this exercise and made it work. Like many of you, I discovered some personal areas I need to work on, which is a good thing. Better to realize our shortcomings now than to do so when a hurricane is knocking on our front doors.

Your comments are certainly welcome.

73

Dave  
WA4WES  
ASEC NFL section



## TARS Officers

<b>Don Pace</b>	<b>Todd Clark</b>	<b>Tom Brooks</b>	<b>Doug Ferrell</b>	<b>Bob Clark</b>
<b>KK4SIH</b>	<b>KN4FCC</b>	<b>K4TB</b>	<b>KD4MOJ</b>	<b>K9HVW</b>
<b>President</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Board Member at large</b>
<b>dgpace</b>			<b>KD4MOJ@</b>	
<b>@yahoo.com</b>	<b>KN4FDCC</b>	<b>K4TB</b>	<b>KD4MOJ.org</b>	<b>K9HVW@ARRL.net</b>
<b>@hotmail.com</b>	<b>@ARRL.net</b>	<b>@earthlink.net</b>		



## **TARS COMMITTEES/COORDINATORS**

**Repeater Trustee: Randy Pierce AG4UU**

**Assistant: Doug Ferrell KD4MOJ**

**K4TLH Callsign Trustee: Dave Miner W4SKG**

**Equipment Manager: Vacant**

**Education: Phil Ashler N4IPH**

**Testing Coordinator: Norm Scholer K4GFD**