

The Printed Circuit

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



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P.O. Box 37127
Tallahassee, FL 32315

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 3, 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, opened the TARS meeting net at 7 PM on the 147.03 MHz repeater.

Check-ins: KK4SIH – Don, KN4FCC – Todd, WA4WES – Dave, K4TB – Tom, KC4EMS- Jack, KG4ITD – Junior, KN4WFH - Steven, KD4MOJ – Doug, K4GFD – Norm, KN4WOW – Ed, NT4B – Bob, KQ3O – Justin, N4JEL -Mike, W4LCR – Clay, K4MVL – Theo, K4SBZ – Stan, KN4TRT – Paul, WD4ADT – Bill, KN4SCE – Ryan, KN4UXJ – Larry, KC7GHI – Russ, K4NRD - Pat, and WA6POZ – Gerry.

Gerry then reminded everyone that the TARS News and Information net is normally Thursday nights at 8 PM on the 146.91 repeater. He then turned the TARS meeting net over to President Don Pace, (KK4SIH) who welcomed everyone.

Business Committees:

Minutes: President Pace asked for approval of the August minutes as stands, if there were no objections, and hearing none he announced the minutes were accepted.

Treasury Report: Treasurer Doug Ferrell, KC4MOJ, said the latest report is in this month's newsletter (the Printed Circuit). He said it shows that since the previous report there was a \$.38 interest earned on savings and a quarterly donation received from Amazon.com. Doug said he had received about 6 or 7 membership renewals that have to be processed yet.

Education and Testing: Testing Coordinator Norm Scholer, K4GFD, said there will be testing on September 12th. The Noon session has two openings left and the 1 PM session is full.

Repeaters: No report.

Old Business

Elections: Don mentioned that we will need nominations for officers by the November meeting, so please contact Chuck Basham (AI4KA) if you are interested in running for an office.

New Business/Discussion/Announcements

Emergency Preparedness: Dave Davis, WA4WES, ARES Assistant State Emergency Coordinator NFL Section, reminded everyone that the peak of the hurricane season is coming soon and to check generators, radios, and other things necessary to be prepared for it. He also said he thinks we could use some young, new hams in the club and wants to talk about that later with anyone interested.

Spaghetti 100 Bike Ride: Stan, K4SBZ, announced that the event was canceled for this year due to the virus, but the cyclists are planning a ride for next Spring.
FCC Notice on Licensing Fees, and Logbook of the World Fees: Gerry, WA6POZ, provided updates on those topics.

Adjournment –The net was closed and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:31 pm.

Program: Shortly following the business meeting was a Zoom video teleconference led by Dr. Thierry Dubroca, a scientist at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. He presented a talk on developing new magnetic resonance instruments for chemistry, bio-chemistry and medical applications. There were 17 attendees and the teleconference concluded at 8:13 pm.

TARS Treasurer's Report

Submitted by: Doug Ferrell, KD4MOJ, Treasurer

	<u>for period</u> 25-Sep-20	<u>year-to-date</u> Jan 1, 2020
<u>Beginning Balances:</u>		
Cash on hand	\$ -	\$ -
Checking Account:	\$ 3,530.90	\$ 2,688.20
Savings Account:	\$ 3,102.29	\$ 3,101.52
Total:	\$ 6,633.19	\$ 5,789.72

Summary of Month's Activity:

Total Receipts:	\$ 298.50	\$ 1,780.69
Total Expenditures:	\$ 71.79	\$ 710.51

Receipts Derived From:

Members Dues:	\$ 68.50	\$ 808.50
Fifty/Fifty Donation (KK4SIH & AI4CO)	\$ -	\$ 42.00
Veteran's Radio Fund	\$ 230.00	\$ 860.00
Field Day Radio Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Interest (Savings) smile.amazon.com	\$ -	\$ 0.77
	\$ -	\$ 69.42
Total	\$ 298.50	\$ 1,780.69

Expenditures:

American Red Cross:	\$ -	\$ -
Fifty-Fifty	\$ -	\$ -
ARRL Insurance	\$ -	\$ -
Spagetti 100 - TARC	\$ -	\$ -
TARS & Feathers Plaque	\$ -	\$ -
Storage & Supplies	\$ -	\$ 284.57

Field Day	\$	-	\$	-
VE Expenses	\$	71.79	\$	71.79
Tower/R repeater Maintenance	\$	-	\$	138.90
Florida Dept of State	\$	-	\$	61.25
Post Office Box:	\$	-	\$	154.00
Total:	\$	71.79	\$	710.51
Transfer Checking -> Savings:				
<u>Ending Balances - Sept 25, 2020:</u>				
Cash on hand	\$	-	\$	-
Checking Account	\$	3,757.61	\$	3,757.61
Savings Account	\$	3,102.29	\$	3,102.29
Total	\$	6,859.90	\$	6,859.90
*Veteran's Radio Fund	\$		\$	500.00
*Field Day Radio Fund	\$		\$	697.00

FCG FCP RadioSports Highlights-October 2020

October is the middle of the busy season for contesting. We have a total of 17 significant contests this month. Three of them are major contests. There are seven State QSO Parties, four of them on one weekend. WA7BNM Contest Calendar lists a record of 114 RadioSport activities for October worldwide, more than enough to keep you busy depending on your interest – phone, CW or digital. You don't have to wait until the weekend to play – there are many small activities scheduled throughout the week in the evenings. The minor events are too numerous, too short, or too focused to warrant attention here. The more significant ones are described below.

Preview of October Weekends

October 3-4

October starts off with the 75th Oceania DX Contest, Phone. This is an opportunity to log some rare DX in the Pacific and other parts of Oceania. Each QSO is credited twenty points on 160M; ten points on 80M; five points on 40M; one point on 20M; two points on 15M; and three points on 10M. Multipliers are

the different Oceania prefixes worked on each band. The exchange is signal report and serial number.

Sadly, the Russian Worldwide Digital Contest is not for all digital modes. Only RTTY45 and BPSK63 are accepted. The QSO points vary according to the band and whether the station is in another country or continent. Contacts with QRP-stations also receive extra points. Multipliers are DXCC entities and Russian areas. The exchange is signal report and a serial number.

State QSO party fans have been looking forward to the California QSO Party on Saturday and Sunday this weekend. The CQP rivals our own Florida QSO Party for popularity. The top 20 CA and top 20 non-CA S/O stations will receive a personalized bottle of NCCC Private Reserve California Wine. All participants are eligible to buy the CQP T-shirt.

October 10-11

This is a busy weekend with seven contests, including four state QSO parties.

The Makrothen RTTY Contest takes place this weekend during three separate 8-hour periods covering Saturday and Sunday. Makrothen is Greek for “great distance.” Therefore, the exchange is the first 4 characters of the “Maidenhead Grid Square Locator” (grid locator) for the station QTH (i.e. FM19, JO41 etc.). No RST report is required. See the rules for the formula for calculating the score based on distance. The “points per kilometer” varies depending on the band. There are no other multipliers.

The 75th Oceania DX Contest, CW takes place this weekend. Like its phone version a week earlier, this is an opportunity to log some rare DX in the Pacific and other parts of Oceania. Each QSO is credited twenty points on 160M; ten points on 80M; five points on 40M; one point on 20M; two points on 15M; and three points on 10M. Multipliers are the different Oceania prefixes worked on each band. The exchange is signal report and serial number.

Phone operators can also get in on the weekend’s DX activities with the Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB. Non-European stations receive one point for every QSO with any Scandinavian country on 14, 21, and 28 MHz and three points for every QSO on 3.5 and 7 MHz. The exchange is signal report and a 3-digit serial number.

This weekend will be a challenge with four state QSO parties.

- The Nevada QSO Party starts off early at 0300Z (11 pm Eastern). It is for all modes. FT8/FT4 stations must use the WSJT-X field day overlay. See the rules for the FT8/FT4 exchange. There are 17 Nevada counties.
- The Arizona QSO Party is also for all modes. Bands include all non-WARC bands 160 – 2 meters. There is a one-time bonus for working W7A. There are 15 Arizona counties.
- The Pennsylvania QSO Party will be on any non-WARC amateur radio band, including 630 M, 2200 M and VHF/UHF and above. Only phone and CW modes are allowed. Bonus stations are K3MJW, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Skyview Radio Society, and W8XK, celebrating the 100th anniversary of KDKA. The original callsign of KDKA was 8XK and then W8XK. There are 67 Pennsylvania counties. This is one of the more popular state QSO parties.
- The South Dakota QSO Party will be all modes and all non-WARC bands. This is an opportunity to make that difficult South Dakota contact that many need for WAS, There will be an extra 100 bonus points for a QSO with W OJY. South Dakota has 66 counties.

The exchange for the QSO parties is RS(T) and state. Please note that in-state operators will give their counties; out-of-state stations DO NOT give their county.

October 17-18

The Major contest this weekend is the Stew Perry Top Band Challenge, a CW only contest. The activity levels for this contest continue to grow, but the band tends to be less crowded than the other contests, making it easier to work DX. The exchange is your four-character grid square. RST is optional. And be sure to read Rule 6.

The Worked All Germany (WAG) Contest is an almost-Major event for SSB and CW. To reduce interference with the participants of JOTA, contest operation is not allowed in certain contest-free sections. Check the rules for details. Non-German stations give the usual RS/RST + serial number exchange. The multiplier for Non-German stations is determined by the number of German districts worked on each band regardless of mode. The German district is indicated by the first letter of the DOK. From special DOKs (two or more letter/figure or figure/letter combinations) only the first letter counts. Thus, a maximum of 26 multipliers per band is possible (letters A ...Z).

The JARTS WW RTTY Contest is a 48-hour event. Multipliers are each DXCC entity and each call area of JA/W/VE/VK. The exchange is RST and operator's age.

The New York QSO Party is a 12-hour contest. This is also one of the more popular state QSO parties. All modes are accepted. There are 62 counties in New York.

The Illinois QSO Party on Sunday is the last state QSO party of the year. There are 104 counties in Illinois. Any non-IL station that has at least 200 IL QSOs or works 75 or more counties will receive a special award. All log entries must include a summary sheet.

October 24-26

The CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB, along with its CW counterpart in November, is the largest amateur radio competition in the world, drawing over 35,000 participants from around the world. The exchange is signal report and CQ zone. Multipliers are the combination of each CQ Zone and each DXCC entity. This is a full 48-hour contest. There is also a club competition. The CQ club eligibility radius is 250 miles.

October 31

The Russian WW MultiMode Contest is for the BPSK63, CW, RTTY45 and SSB modes only. The exchange is RS(T) and serial number. Points vary according to inside/outside country, other continents, and which band. Multipliers are DXCC entities and Russian areas.

About Participating

Before participating in any of these contests or events, please familiarize yourself with the times, bands, 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 contester, 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 one 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 to the contest sponsor 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.

Summary

Contest	Type	Weight	Date	Time	CW	SSB	RTTY	Other	Digital
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	DX	5	3-Oct	0800Z			S		
Russian WW Digital Contest	DX	5	3-Oct	1200Z				R	D
California QSO Party	QSO	7	3-Oct	1600Z	C		S		
Makrothen RTTY Contest	DX	5	10-Oct	0000Z			R		
Nevada QSO Party	QSO	7	10-Oct	0300Z	C	S	R		D
Oceania DX Contest, CW	DX	5	10-Oct	0800Z	C				
Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	DX	5	10-Oct	1200Z	C				
Arizona QSO Party	QSO	7	10-Oct	1600Z	C	S	R		
Pennsylvania QSO Party	QSO	7	10-Oct	1600Z	C	S		R	D
South Dakota QSO Party	QSO	7	10-Oct	1800Z	C	S		R	D
JARTS WW RTTY Contest	DX	5	17-Oct	0000Z				R	
New York QSO Party	QSO	7	17-Oct	1400Z		C	S	R	D
Worked All Germany Contest		Major	8	17-Oct	1500Z	C		S	
Stew Perry Topband Challenge		Major	10	17-Oct	1500Z	C			
Illinois QSO Party	QSO	7	18-Oct	1700Z		C	S	R	D
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB		Major	10	24-Oct	0000Z			S	
Russian WW MultiMode Contest	DX	5	31-Oct	1200Z	C			S	R D

Ham Happenings

October 2020 DX

Some of the listing stations may have canceled their plans due to the Corvis-19

From	To	Prefix	Call, () is the IOTA designation
01-Oct		???	V7 V7/KX4QD
01-Oct	01-Jan	CE9	8J1RL (AN-015)
01-Oct	02-Oct	HB0	HB0/DL5YL, HB0/DL5YM
01-Oct	03-Oct	GW	GB100RS
01-Oct	06-Oct	KH8/S	W8S (OC-200)
01-Oct	12-Oct	VU	AT2DP
01-Oct	13-Oct	CE	CB33M
01-Oct	13-Oct	K	K5DX/50
01-Oct	14-Oct	TF	TF/DJ7JC

01-Oct	18-Oct	ON	OT5ABI
01-Oct	25-Sep	HZ	Saudi National Day 90 event
01-Oct	30-Nov	4W	4W DXpedition
01-Oct	31-Dec	JA	8N1M
01-Oct	31-Dec	XE	4A50RCH
01-Oct	31-Oct	KH4	KH6VV/KH4
01-Oct	31-Oct	T30	T30ET
07-Oct	15-Oct	T8	T88UW (OC-009)
09-Oct	28-Oct	Z6	Z66DX
14-Oct	21-Oct	T8	by JH6HZH (OC-0
14-Oct	21-Oct	T8	T88RH, T88SM (OC-009)
19-Oct	28-Oct	CY0	CY0C
25-Oct	31-Oct	FO/A	FO/W7GJ

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

Tropical Storm/Hurricane Sally

What was supposed to be a mild Tropical Storm that went ashore near New Orleans turned into be a soaker that drenched much of the Panhandle of Florida and even dumped about 10 inches of rain on the Tallahassee/ Leon County Area. By September 7 Tropical Storm Sally, that was upgraded to a category 1 Hurricane Sally, threatened the panhandle of Florida, but was a more serious predicted problem for New Orleans. But about 9 a.m. on Monday, the storm stalled and turned more northerly. With a forward speed of about 2 miles per hour it rained, and rained, and rained on the western part of Florida.

A few days earlier, local hams had coordinated with the National Weather Service to determine what information it needed should Sally pose more of a problem than anticipated. With Sally's change of plans hams were alerted to the National Weather Service net. Reports, especially of flooding and wind damage, were funneled to the NWS using HF, the SARnet, and the local 147.03 repeaters. Two hams, Todd, KN4FCC, and Clay, W4LCR, had chatroom accounts with the NWS and sent their reports and those sent to them by radio using that method.

By Wednesday the weather crisis had lessened, or was under control, and the weather net was discontinued, or morphed into an ARES net. Escambia County had been flooded and its 911 service was out, as were other communications means. That net continued on 3.950 MHz for another day at which time it was closed. Significantly, Karl Martin, K4HBN the Section Emergency Coordinator, asked the ARRL to send a message to hams using that frequency for their daily ragchews to let the Northern Florida ARES operators use it during the Sally emergency. When informed of this request, they graciously relinquished it the ARES operators.

The weather net worked well, and the NWS was happy with the information the local, Big Bend, and Panhandle hams provided. Closer ties, especially with the Bay County radio operators were developed, and we look for to working with them again.

TARS Elections coming up.

There is a very important election coming up. No, not this little thing for officials in Washington, but an election for the officers of the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society. Like all elections, we need victims, uh I mean candidates, to vote for that are interested in serving as a TARS official.

If you are interested in the following leadership positions in the club, please contact the nominating committee, Chuck Basham (AI4KA). The positions available are:

President: Presides at all meetings and conducts the meetings according to the bylaws of the club and other duties as needed.

Vice President: Responsible for the programs at each club meeting; available to assume responsibilities of the president if the president is absent.

Secretary: Keeps a record of the proceedings of the meetings and maintains official correspondence

Treasurer: Keeps account of the club funds and pays bills as authorized by the bylaws

Member at Large: Assists as necessary

Qualifications for the jobs are quite simple. You will need to have your dues paid up. If you are scared, or you don't know what to do, don't worry. Past officers are willing to assist you as needed. Shoot, if I can be the president , anyone can do it.

In all seriousness, it is a real good opportunity to set the direction your club will take. Having changes in leadership keeps the club healthy and prevents potential stagnation. The time requirements are minimal and everyone, and I do mean everyone, is always helpful.

Don't worry about hurting anyone's feelings if you choose to run against

somebody for a position. In past elections, most offices are filled un-opposed. In many cases, arm twisting is required to find candidates for office.

If interested, please contact Chuck at his ARRL email address (ai4ka@arrl.net) and let him know that you are interested.



TARS Officers

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

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

TARS Officers