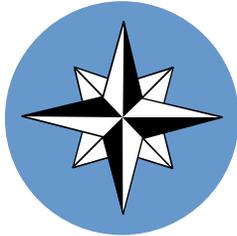


September 2001



Inside this issue:

Poor Man's Hamfest	1
President's QSO	1
VP's Corner	2
Monthly Meeting Minutes	2
Upcoming Events	6

Poor Man's Hamfest on Florida's First Coast

Submitted By: Steve Welsh, AD4E, on behalf of NOFARS

Another innovation sponsored by NOFARS and seven other area organizations is the Jacksonville Poor Man's Hamfest. A contract has been entered into with Florida Community College at Jacksonville (FCCJ)

for use of the North Campus on Saturday, October 6th with a rain date of Saturday, October 20th. Thanks to Tom Castiglia, NO4A for his assistance to N4UF in getting us a good deal.

Photo-KG4GXU

The main innovation is FREE ADMISSION. Previous hamfests in Jacksonville have re-

quired payment of a significant admission charge. The free format has been successful in other cities and may be the wave of the future as traditional hamfest continue to shrink and more hams object to high admission charges. Some hams object to the practice of clubs balancing their budgets on the

(Continued on page 3)

Special points of interest:

- NOFARS holds free hamfest.
- Tropical weather season in full swing.
- Chris Floyd, Director, Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross to present program at September meeting.
- Spaghetti 100 cycling event coming up in October.

President's QSO

Well, we're two months into this year's hurricane season, and we have seen four named storms as of this writing. Two of

these tropical storms, Allison, and Barry, affected our area with very heavy rainfall. There were tornadoes, wide-spread flash flood-

ing, and even one death due to Allison's remnants. The official rain gauge at the airport recorded 10.13 inches on

(Continued on page 4)

VP's Corner

No column this month

Meeting Minutes—August 2001

Meeting convened at 1932 EDT by President David Heupel, KG4ACF.

Guests: Randy Evans, KE4RWS; and Daniel Whelan, KG4OBJ. Twenty-five members in attendance.

No Program.

Treasurer's Report:
no report

Repeaters: Randy Pierce, KC4YWP, is in need of help/volunteers for repeater maintenance. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Mr. Pierce at randy.pierce@myflorida.com, or 850-922-7424 (work), 850-671-5850 (home).

Soldering Class: – Saturday, September

8 from 9-4. Need to bring \$20 at the next TARS meeting. The class is also limited to 20 people on a first-come, first-served basis.

Shuttle launch will occur on August 12, link on .910 will be up accordingly.

Testing Report: The next test session will be September 4 (first Tuesday of odd numbered months). The location can be found on the website: <http://k4tlh.org>.

Old Business:

Gas Card – Card should be arriving any day.

Radio Tower – David

talked to new station manager who said the new tower will be completed soon. A final decision is another month away so David will contact him at that time.

New Business:

Tailgate and member drive – The tailgate is scheduled for November 10. David and other board members have discussed putting the van at the tailgate, and publicizing the event such as flyers at schools, the Weather channel crawl, and trying to round up more public involvement.

Hamfest – Jacksonville NOFARS, Poor Man's Hamfest. October 6 at the North Florida/Jacksonville Community College (North

(Continued on page 3)



Meeting Minutes—August 2001

(Continued from page 2)

campus) – rain date, October 20. The event is free.

Spaghetti 100 – Elizabeth Moss, KD4VQQ, handed out information on this bike race. It will be held on October 20. All hands needed so contact Elizabeth at 877-6487 or .655 on the Sunday net.

Skywarn class – David Pienta, KG4D VW, will try to put together an advanced Skywarn Spotter class at the same time as the introductory Skywarn

Spotter class. Will post notice on Internet. Send an email to weather-man_fsu@yahoo.com.

Tropical Storm Barry – David Pienta provided an update on where this storm is located.

Safety Vests – Brett looked into this, and it seems a bit expensive. Elizabeth offered to check into material to make them.

Magnetic Signs – Kent Hutchinson, KC4TOC, is looking into signs for our vehicles for

use during events. He's talking with the ARRL about the costs (about \$15-20/pair) but they would not want to stock the material unless they know the interest is there.

NET help needed – Kent said the HF net on 3.950 is looking for net control operators or others interested in administrative capacities.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.



Help Wanted:
Volunteers needed to help with net control duties on North Florida ARES/Phone nets on 3950 KHz

Poor Man's Hamfest on Florida's First Coast

(Continued from page 1)

backs of those attending a hamfest.

Donations are welcome to offset costs of the facilities contract, insurance and promotion but as per Florida Sales Tax regulations, no specific amount is man-

dated. Some corporate sponsors have expressed interest in assisting with funding future free events in Jacksonville if this one is successful.

Eight groups signed up before the sponsor declaration deadline on August 7th. The

original deadline was Field Day weekend, but was extended to 60 days prior to the first hamfest. Additional sponsors may sign up for subsequent events.

Sponsors include NO-FARS, Florida Crown

(Continued on page 4)

Poor Man's Hamfest on Florida's First Coast (con't)

(Continued from page 3)

ARES, Eagle Radio Club, NS4R Repeater System/ Marietta Amateur Radio Club, Florida SEDAN, First Coast Amateur Digital Assn., Jax Skywarn Assn. and the FCCJ Computer Electronics Technology Program.

The Jacksonville Poor Man's Hamfest is designated as the official Florida Crown ARES Convention. Besides programs and forums, a huge outdoor tailgate area will be available for non-dealers that wish to sell, buy or trade Amateur Radio-related and computer gear. The fun will start at

(Continued on page 5)



Negotiations
to acquire
commercial
radio tower
continue.

President's QSO (con't)

(Continued from page 1)

June 11. The American Red Cross had over 650 reports of flooded structures from this storm. If you haven't heard yet, even yours truly was affected by this storm system. Excessive runoff collected on my back patio to the point that the water encroached the house. I had 2 – 3 inches of standing water inside, and my rain gauge read 36.70 inches. Rain fell at my house at an average rate of 2.5 inches per hour from about 4:00 p. m. on June 11 to 2:45 a. m. on June 12, plus several short-lived showers that moved through in the morn-

ing and early afternoon on June 11.

Tropical Storm Barry packed less of a punch, and dropped less water on us than Allison, but with saturated ground conditions, flooding was a big problem in Southwest Leon County. Barry officially produced 8.80 inches of rain – my rain gauge read 6.27 inches. Jackie, KG4CZX, stayed home from work and secured the house from flooding again. I volunteered some time at the American Red Cross, handling communications between shelters, the chapter house, and roving units doing damage

assessment in affected areas of the county.

Severe weather is nothing to take lightly. High winds can destroy property, lightning is deadly, and flooding can take both property and life. During a tropical weather event, conditions can change without warning. These threats should be taken very, very seriously, even though the weather may not seem severe to you at your location, or at any particular moment in time. We have an excellent rapport with the National Weather Service with Dave Pienta, KG4DVW, our

(Continued on page 5)

President's QSO (con't)

(Continued from page 4)

Skywarn coordinator, and Jim & Pat Winne, KB4IVH and WA4FAL, respectively. They put in some long hours at the NWS office during these two events, and they are to be commended. Additionally, I'd like to thank Dave for his excellent communications skills in getting out the word regarding ARES nets during the event, as well as important life-saving information regarding up-to-the-minute weather conditions.

Some of you may be thinking, "Oh, it was no big deal, really – it was just a bunch of rain. Just a lot of water – that's all." I submit to you, tell that to the people who got flooded out of their homes, or to the people who suffered property damage from tornadoes – I bet they would debate your viewpoint. The fact of the matter is that even if things don't look to be that serious,

the potential and the threat for damaging conditions exists, and we should remain alert and vigilant – ready to act should the need arise.

I would like to personally thank everyone who participated in ARES nets, and or volunteered their time and effort in some way during these two weather events. We need more people like you, and I encourage everyone with a license to check into the nets – and not just when an emergency condition exists. I also invite you to the monthly meetings of the Society. Come and get to know your neighbors, and the people that share a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Until next month,
73!

Poor Man's Hamfest on Florida's First Coast (con't)

(Continued from page 4)

sunrise--about 6:30AM and last until 2PM or so.

Prizes also will be awarded. Any person or group wishing to donate a prize should contact N4UF, WA4B or K4EL. QSL card checking for CQ magazine awards such as CQ DX and WAZ will be offered.

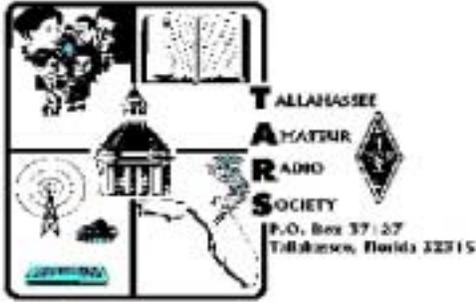
The NOFARS truck will be used as a sound stage in the FCCJ parking lot

with plenty of interesting activities planned. Flyers have been printed and the word is spreading fast on Florida nets and via Internet.

Plan now to be a part of this debut of a new tradition! If you can assist with staging the hamfest, contact N4UF or attend the September 13th NOFARS meeting.



During a tropical weather event, conditions can change without warning. These threats should be taken very, very seriously, even though the weather may not seem severe to you at your location...



Amateur Radio
Around the
World

We're on the Web!
<http://www.k4tlh.org>



<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tars>

Your Officers

President:

David A. Heupel, KG4ACF
kg4acf@arrl.net
(850) 321.3217

Vice-President:

F. Brett Wellman,
KG4KLR
kg4klr@arrl.net

Treasurer:

Kent B. Hutchinson,
KC4TOC
kc4toc@earthlink.net
(850) 576-4200

Secretary:

Carliane Johnson,
KG4CJT
carliane@msn.com

Upcoming Events

Testing Session:

7:00 p. m. EDT on July 3, 2001, at the regular testing session location on Dupree St in Tallahassee. For more information, a map and directions, visit <http://www.k4tlh.org/testing.html>.

TARS Meetings: Every first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p. m. EDT. Picnics in April and October—Tom Brown Park at 6:00.

Friday Lunch: Every Friday, 11:30 a. m. EDT at Golden Corral on North Monroe St.

Saturday Breakfasts:

Every Saturday, 8:00 a. m. EDT at Golden Corral on Monroe St—every Saturday.

Capital District ARES

Net: Every Sunday, 8:00 p. m. EDT on the AE4S repeater (146.655).

North Florida ARES

Net: Every morning, except Sunday on 3950 KHz at 9:30 a. m.

North Florida Phone

Net: Every evening, except Sunday on 3950 KHz at 7:30 p. m.

Editorial Policy

Submitted material received by the editor from dues-paying members in good standing, on or before the 15th of the month will appear in the following month's newsletter as space permits. Articles published in *The Printed Circuit* are 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 KG4ACF, David A. Heupel.