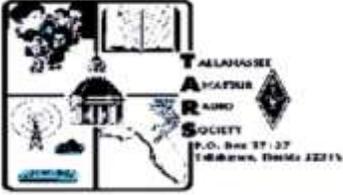


# Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society August 2009



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

**Just a reminder, this Thursday's TARS important meeting regarding the TARS Communication Van.**

**All hams are invited**

**Refreshments will be served at the break**

**Date: Thursday August 6, 2009**

**Time: 7pm**

**Location: Publix on Ocala Rd.**

**Minutes of the July TARS Membership Meeting**  
**TARS - Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society**  
**Thursday, July 2, 2009**

The TARS February Meeting was held at the Publix on Ocala Rd. on Thursday, July 2, 2009.

**CALL to ORDER at 7:00 p.m.**

President Dan Moniz KI4HGO welcomed the 20 members and guests who signed in.

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

**INTRODUCTION of GUESTS**

Dan introduced John Hanbury KC4EMS who contacted Dan after seeing the articles on Field Day; and Todd Kramer N4WOR who was originally from the Orlando area. A motion was approved to vary the normal order of the meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chuck AI4KA was congratulated with a round of applause on being named the Leader of Capital District ARES Jump Teams by DEC Dave WA4WES.

Alan W1ABT said that Commissioner Bill Proctor had taken time out of his busy schedule to visit TARS' Field Day and indicated it might be possible to swap the van for a "younger" vehicle. Alan suggested it is time to take a decision on the van and act on it. Following various humorous suggestions by others, David KG4YZI questioned whether the van still belongs to the County and so any action might require County authorization. Further discussion was moved to New Business.

Dan KI4HGO drew attention to pictures in the current TARS Newsletter of the recent meeting of emergency personnel at the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and said it was a great experience. Dan expressed particular admiration for "Junior" Lolley KG4ITD of Liberty County, and told those who have not met him that Junior is on the first page of those EOC photos.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Field Day**

Mike K4ICY, coordinator for the event, was given a rousing round of applause for taking the lead. He graciously recognized great help from Alan W1ABT, Larry KI4MAJ, and the American Red Cross (tents, pop-ups, etc.), as well as Williams Communications (trailer), Leon County Parks and Recreation (waiver for the use of J. Lee Vause Park), and St. Francis of Assisi UMC (chairs, tables, etc.). Mike expressed his gratitude to all the hams who coordinated the various stations and contributed efforts, equipment, elmering, food, and good humor. Mike gave a few highlights: there were fewer antenna problems this year; Bobby and his crew did a great job keeping folks fed while spending less on food than was budgeted; and all who said they wanted to operate were given a chance to get on the air.

Mike said he felt truly honored to work the event, gained new confidence working with such experienced hams, and enjoyed helping with the interviews to represent the club before the media.

Several others highlighted activities of fellow hams. For example, Carl NN5I thanked Buck KD4OPU who brought food to the CW van so they could keep working, and Carl was thanked, in turn, for donating the use of his van for the event. TARS' newest Technician who got his ticket at the Field Day test session, Kurt Murrell, was pictured in the Tallahassee Democrat article while helping Dave W4SKG operate the GOTA station in the blazing sun. David WE4RA, Phil N4IPH, and Ted W1XO excelled at fixing all manner of glitches and were the "Go-to guys" who helped communications run smoothly. Natalie KI4WWJ camped out in a tent so she could work long hours when the bands opened up during the graveyard shift. And Paul Woods, who usually operates from the TARS van, was hailed as "a real trooper" for operating the 6-meter station under the Red Cross tent in the upper 90s temperatures and putting in long hours braving bugs, on-lookers, and miserable band conditions. (There were many more examples, but this transcriber could not copy them fast enough.)

Dan KI4HGO highlighted the importance of **elmers**, saying we really need to focus on that, to encourage new hams to continue in the hobby. He thanked Mike K4ICY and everyone who participated in making this a great Field Day. Mike was recommended by acclamation as the 2010 Field Day coordinator. The club will send letters to thank organizations that contributed goods and services for the event. Dave KG4YZI suggested the club consider having the 2010 Field Day at the new American Red Cross facility which is now under construction.

### **Section Manager Report**

ARRL NFL Section Manager Paul KJ4G reported on his Field Day tour from Pensacola to Tallahassee. He complimented TARS on its layout of stations, saying he saw it at 4 a.m. Sunday despite problems with the low-hanging trees that snagged equipment off his motor home as he drove it through the Park. He also visited and described TARC's new location in Wakulla County, and said he felt Field Day had been a great success across the Panhandle, no matter the size of the clubs or installations. He regretted not being able to visit the remainder of the Section, but hopes to do so next year.

Paul said the meeting at the EOC helped amateur radio personnel to better understand what is expected of them by the State. From now on, all deployable hams in this Section need to be on the NFL database (see [www.arrl-nfl.org](http://www.arrl-nfl.org)). Any deployable NFL ham that is not in the database will not be deployed. New rules coming from Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) will provide for a new ID tag, but only after having a criminal background check created by the Dept. of Defense (DOD). Also at the EOC session, there was a very successful high-speed demo of D-Star including messages with attachments. Paul said, overall it was a very good session.

### **Antenna party**

Roger AJ4GF said efforts continue to help a veteran ham who needs assistance raising an antenna. Various cables need to be tested with an ohm-meter, and the group will need donations of pulleys, insulators, and other items to get this done. K4IMO is bringing his spud launcher, and Roger invited volunteers to contact him before next Tuesday to join in the effort.

### **Contribution**

Dan KI4HGO brought up a matter that was raised at a previous meeting. He asked members to again consider making a contribution to St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church where TARS now does testing, has held a meeting, training session, and the Radio Reunion, and which has been offered as a

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potential location for next year's Field Day. Following a short discussion of the costs incurred by the church in providing the service, advantages and disadvantages of alternate sites for events, and TARS' recognition of the benefits offered by the venue, a motion was approved to contribute \$100.

### **Bethel Tower**

Randy AG4UU asked about costs of electrical power usage at the tower site. Dan said it is running at or less than the minimum charged by Talquin Electric Cooperative.

### **Holiday Party Plans**

A question arose about a site for the annual holiday dinner. Discussion covered locations, the feasibility of using a caterer or having a covered-dish meeting, and there was a question about whether various restaurants would be available or would have space for all those who wish to attend. Dan said he will need a lot of help to make arrangements for this year's event, and projecting attendance is always a problem. Dan appointed Chuck AI4KA to chair the 2009 holiday party.

### **BREAK**

Visitor Todd N4WOR picked the winning 50-50 ticket belonging to Stan K4SBZ, who is among the club's growing group of PSK31 enthusiasts.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Paul KJ4G described a trailer built by members of GARS (Gainesville club) for about \$600 and which they use to haul a portable tower for deployment or Field Day events. Paul said he knew someone who could build such a trailer. He moved that TARS build a trailer, remove the tower from the van, and put it on the proposed trailer.

A lively and multiple-threaded discussion ensued, during which it was clear there are many facts and details that need to be sorted out before a final decision is taken. Among the major points:

- Randy AG4UU said Paul's suggestion is very interesting, but he feels it is a bit ahead of where TARS is, in the discussion on the van. The size and weight of TARS' tower is a factor in the design of a trailer to carry it. He further detailed his concerns: defining the purpose(s) of a vehicle or trailer; equipment and fittings currently in the van; and not doing anything that might compromise the structural integrity of the van until its ownership is clarified and all TARS equipment and fittings are secured.
- Dan KI4HGO suggested the motion be tabled until TARS gets a committee together to discuss the available options and address some of the concerns. He recommended the committee be those who have knowledge of the van.
- Paul and Randy converged on the idea of having the committee inventory and dismantle TARS equipment from the van, verify the Title ownership, consider the potential for salvage, and many other details.
- After raising similar concerns, Jerry N4JL moved to decommission the van; Paul offered to retract his motion; and Jerry amended his motion that at the next meeting we vote to decommission or keep the van. Various other amendments were suggested in side discussions. A consensus was that the matter should be studied and a vote taken at the next meeting.

- Roger moved to table the motion, and the vote taken was unanimous to table, so this matter will be discussed at the next meeting in August.

Randy AG4UU suggested the President appoint a committee to fact-find and explore the options raised during this meeting. Dan asked Randy to head the committee, and Randy said he would like to include members of the previous committee, Alan W1ABT, Jerry N4JL, David KG4YZI, John KI4EWB; and add Roger AJ4GF and Paul KJ4G.

It was also noted that Kent KC4TOC has generously provided a home for the van for many years, but the committee should look into options for storing it elsewhere.

#### **OFFICERS' REPORTS**

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT and MINUTES**

The July Treasurer's Report and June Minutes were printed in the Newsletter, and approved by unanimous vote.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was approved and the meeting closed at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:  
Chantal Blanton, KI4NBU

# TARS Treasurer's Report

August 2009

Beginning balance July 1, 2009

Checking Account:	\$1185.01
Savings Account:	<u>\$2926.71</u>
Total	\$4111.72

Receipts deposited in checking account: \$9.50

Receipts deposited in savings account: 0.35

Receipts derived from the following:

9.50	50/50
.35	Interest paid on Savings Account
<u>9.85</u>	Total

Expenditures:

62.74	Lunch, snacks and water for Field Day
77.39	Gas and diesel fuel for generators for Field Day
22.16	Talquin Electric, Bethel Road Tower 7/8 Bill
96.00	USPS, Box Rental, one year
100.00	Donation to St. Francis of Assisi Church
<u>358.29</u>	Total

Outstanding Expenses:

Supper meal for Field Day

Ending Balance, June 30, 2009

Checking Account:	\$ 836.22
Savings Account:	<u>\$2927.06</u>
Total	\$3763.28

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0 members renewed or joined since last report.

0 individuals

0 family member

0 students

Dues for renewing individuals, as well as family members are \$15.00.

Membership fee for new members joining in June is \$6.25.

Good afternoon folks,

## A New remote simplex base

\*\*\*\*\*

Over this last w/e, the 443.400 repeater folks installed a remote base in downtown Apalachicola. The distance from the repeater is about 70 air miles SW of TLH.

The frequency of the remote base is 147.435 simplex, PL 100 e/d.(tsq)  
It works in unison with the 443.400 +5Mc, PL 131.8 e/d repeater in north Leon County (TLH) Florida.

When traveling to this area, program your mobile/handheld 2M radio to 147.435 Simplex, PL100e/d.(tsq) You will have full access to TLH and the other remote bases in operation. Echolink is provided on the hub repeater and all RB's.

It has a coverage area of a minimum of a 20 mile radius (approximately 1200 sq miles), reaching from Carrabelle south to Cape San Blas and Port St. Joe. This includes the Dog Island, St George Island and St Vincent Island, East Point and Apalach along the coast and up into the forest north towards Samata along SR 65.

The primary design of the 443.400 systems with Echolink was to provide another EM Comm repeater for emergencies.

Secondary usage supports light to moderate rag chewing and the echolink system.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for your support,

73,  
Paul L. Eakin, [KJ4G@arrl.org](mailto:KJ4G@arrl.org)  
Northern Florida Section Manager  
850-591-0442  
NFLDataBase, [www.arrl-nfl.org/nfldata/register.php](http://www.arrl-nfl.org/nfldata/register.php)

## Tech Class sponsored by the Franklin County EOC

About three (3) weeks ago the Franklin County EOC advertised for local people who may be interested in community service and assisting by becoming an amateur radio operators to come to the EOC for classes on technician Friday afternoon and Saturday July 31st and August 1st.

While there were issues in the early stages of planning, everything worked out and five (5) new people participated in the class and took the tech test late Saturday afternoon. One person had some problems and I'm sure there are going to be mentor training to that person to assist them on to a passing grade. Two (2) of the new hams are very interested in becoming General class operators. When this happens, there will be a compliment of operators to get an emergency operation off and running until the cal can get there to help.

Thank you goes out to the Franklin County EOC staff, Pam and Mike who provided the classroom facilities, provided the study material and the advertisements. Franklin County EC, Ron Page, KF4HKJ who hosted the event and providing goodies to munch on, and assisted by Tom AF4WU and Tom KC4FCI.

TLH amateurs who participated in the instruction portion were Dan, KI4HGO, President of the TARS Club; Dave, W4SKG, EM Comm instructor; John, AD4DO President of the WCSARC and Donna, WQ4M, NFLDBM.

The testing was provided by the Wakulla Sportsman Paradise ARC. Doug, K4GKJ, WCSARC VE Chairman and Kimo, K4IMO, ARRL CE ran the testing session with others making up the needed VE pool.

A hearty thank you goes out to the folks who took vacation time on Friday and gave up a summer Saturday to drive about 160 miles round trip to Apalach to help these new hams into a great hobby.

JOB WELL DONE !!!

73,

Paul L. Eakin, [KJ4G@arrl.org](mailto:KJ4G@arrl.org)

Northern Florida Section Manager

850-591-0442

NFLDataBase, [www.arrl-nfl.org/nfldata/register.php](http://www.arrl-nfl.org/nfldata/register.php)

# The Jakeman Project by the over the hill gang



# New Membership or Renewal Form



2009 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: Individ. \_\_\_\_\_ 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; except after July, dues become \$7.50.

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 - KI4HGO

Vice President: Alan Torledskey - W1ABT

Secretary: Chantal Blanton - KI4NBU

Treasurer: LarryPushor KI4MAJ

## TARS Committees:

Repeater Trustee #1: Randy Pierce AG4UU

Repeater Trustee #2: Vacant

Newsletter Editor: Dan Moniz KI4HGO

Historian: Shawn Wilson AG4VE

Equipment Manager: Steve Welsh AD4E

Education: Phil Ashler N4IPH

Special Events: Carliane Johnson KG4CJT

Webmaster: David A. Heupel WE4RA

