

Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society December 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

ABREVIATED HOLIDAY NEWS LETTER

HAPPY HOLIDAYS To ALL



Holiday Celebrations for the Greater Tallahassee Area Ham Clubs

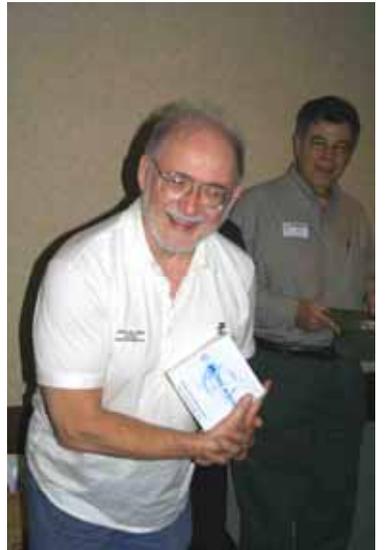


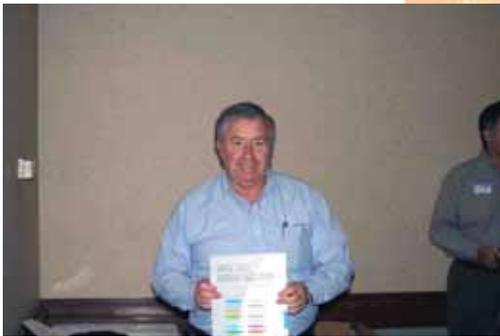
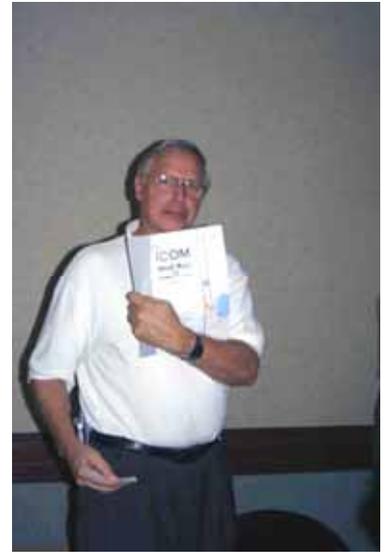
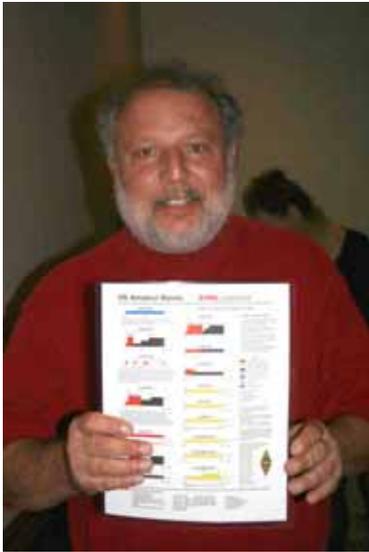
The three Tallahassee area clubs held their Holiday Dinners in the first half of December. TARS held their dinner on December 4th at Marie Livingston's Steak House, SPARC held their dinner on December 14th at the Nichols Seafood Restaurant and TARC held their dinner on December 16th at JB's BBQ. The great thing about this years celebration was the number of Hams that celebrated with all three clubs! Everyone had a great time, thank you TARS, SPARC and TARC. Here are some pictures from the parties.



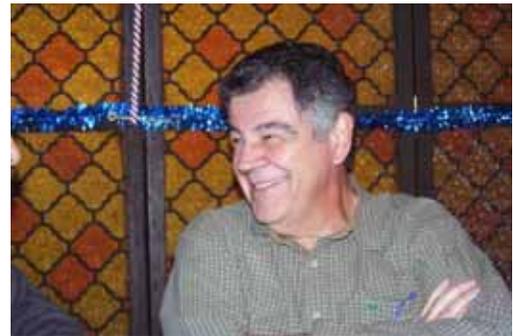
Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society







Sportsman Paradise Amateur Radio Club



Thomasville Amateur Radio Club



Don't Forget the Thomasville Amateur Radio Club Holiday Nets!!

Christmas Eve, 12/24/05 – 9pm
New Year's Eve, 12/31/05 – 9pm
147.195 MHz. PL tone 141.3

Kids and Family members are welcome as 3rd Parties !

The Sunday ARES Nets will be held at the usual time (8pm) Christmas Eve, as well as New Years Eve

A Holiday Message from Brett (kg4klr)



Five years ago I called up the pediatric ward at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and inquired about doing something simple for the kids that would hopefully make their holiday a little bit better, something that would take their minds off of the needles, blood tests, and constant invasion of personal privacy. I had read something on-line about using ham radio to make the children think they had talked to Santa Clause in the North Pole. What a great idea! Low cost on my end and the payoff with the children would be invaluable!

Every year I call up to TMH the week after Thanksgiving and schedule the date for this event. I am always asked the same questions (how many people in the party, does it require a lot of pre-planning by the nurses, etc.). My only request to them year after year is for no media publicity, and every year the person I speak with is pleasantly surprised by it. To me, this is for the children and their families, not to promote amateur radio.

The nursing staff is always so gracious and enjoys helping us prepare. In the mornings, while doing the routine checks of vital signs, the nurses casually ask what the child would like from Santa. Little do the children know that their answers are going directly to Santa! When we arrive, they give us a map of the floor with first names and a list of toys they'd like. As the elves enter each room to pay the child (and family) a visit, there's no need for an introduction...Santa already knows their name! If that doesn't make the child a believer, Santa also knows some of the things they would like to find under the tree! It is truly an amazing moment for the child, their family members, the nurses, and those of us lucky enough to be doing this neat event.

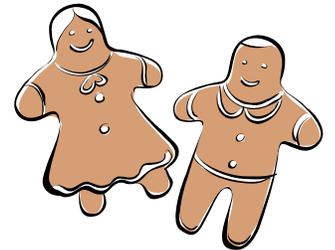


Each year has some very special moments. There's the time a child that was lethargic and not talking, jumped up, monitoring wires protruding from all angles of her body, and bounced across the bed towards the radio when she heard Santa say her name. Because of us her eyes opened up, her spirits lifted, and she had a wonderful experience. A few years ago there was the 6 year old boy who was not feeling well, but when Santa knew he wanted a guitar and asked what the boy would do with it, the reply was "I'll play you any song you want, Santa". So innocent, so genuine. When they say, "I love you, Santa", how can we reply with anything but an "I love you, too" while swallowing a lump, knowing how deeply these children are touched.

Last year we had an unexpected surprise as they were wheeling in a child while our "elves" were finishing the last stop. The child had a problem with his throat and could not talk, and his father that was accompanying him appeared to not speak English. The elves relayed the situation and asked that Santa say a few words to the child. It wasn't so much the sparkle in the child's eye as it was the tears from the father that made it so special. To see his child, in a time of pain and anxiety, have a moment of calmness that enabled him to forget, if even for a second, all of the things that were happening to him.

Unfortunately there are strict regulations on how many in a group can visit the pediatric ward; otherwise I would gladly invite every ham, their spouses, and their friends if they wanted to participate. Keep in mind, though, that this is not the only worthy cause, and this is not the only time of year to do it. There are children on the pediatric ward 365 days a year and they are usually overlooked until the holidays. I'm as guilty of doing that as anyone else. And TMH is not the only place to do such easy, but yet inspiring event for kids.

There's plenty of websites with great ideas for ways to bring a little magic to others through your hobbies. I've found that by doing something, you are helping others to enjoy life and find a new meaning, inspiration, or reasons to smile. Healing Hobby, Holiday Hams, Kids Club, Recovery Radio, and Senior Signals are some of the fantastic ideas I've seen on websites. I would like to see our amateur radio group become more active with the community in an assisting manner. We have emergency communications covered, and the marathon and bike race planners know how to reach us, but lets go deeper into the community and help others out, not by just talking into a radio to relay a message, but by talking to a person, face to face, about radio.



There is no better feeling than leaving TMH every year with a floor full of kids that know they spoke to Santa Claus. Try it sometime, you'll be amazed how a smile stays on your face for weeks!

Happy Holidays.

73,
Brett Wellman
KG4KLR
Kg4klr@arrl.net

New Membership or Renewal Form



2005 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.

Happy Holidays from All of Us at TARS To all of You!!!!



TARS Officers

President: Dan Moniz - KI 4HGO
Vice President: Alan Torledskey - W1ABT
Secretary: Chantal Blanton - KI 4NBU
Treasurer: Carlton W. Wells - AG4UT

TARS Committees:

Repeater Trustee #1: Randy Pierce AG4UU
Repeater Trustee #2: Vacant
Newsletter Editor: Dan Moniz KI 4HGO
Historian: Shawn Wilson AG4VE
Equipment Manager: Carlton Wells AG4UT
Education: Phil Ashler N4IPH
Special Events: Carliane Johnson KG4CJT
Webmaster: David A. Heupel WE4RA



HAPPY NEW YEARS TO ALL