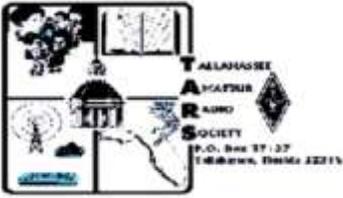


# Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society June 2009



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.

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The Program for this meeting will be presented by a very special guest, a war hero and the father of a local Ham.

Here is David Pienta's introduction:

When it comes down to radios, this isn't much SMSgt. Pienta has not seen or done. He has 26 years of radio operator experience in USAF. Starting out on MARS radios and ending up on some of the most advanced radio equipment the USAF had to offer. He has served though 2 major wars (Vietnam, Desert Storm) and has accumulated over 26 medals. Come listen in as SMSgt. Pienta shares his story of humor and radio experiences of both peace and wartime. You will see that what we do as radio operators is not far off from that of the military!

**Don't forget the election of officers is going to be conducted at the meeting !!!!!**

Also, bring in your order blank and money if you want to purchase a TARS shirt. The order blank can be found in the May issue of the newsletter on the K4TLH site.

# Minutes of the May TARS Membership Meeting

## TARS - Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society

### Thursday, May 7, 2009

The TARS May Meeting was held at the Publix on Ocala Road, Thursday, May 7, 2009.

CALL TO ORDER at 7:00 p.m.:

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

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

INTRODUCTION of GUESTS:

Dan introduced Norm Scholer KJ4JPK and Karen Fisher, the wife of tonight's speaker.

PROGRAM:

Vice President Alan Torledsky W1ABT introduced tonight's speaker, Ron Fisher, the manager of the Tallahassee Airport Tower. Ron noted that he shares a common interest with the members of TARS, that of liking to talk on the radio. However, they do more than talk to airplanes. There is a lot of behind the scenes work that involves security, safety and emergency services. He is the emergency coordinator for the federal government covering the panhandle. He communicates and coordinates with other governmental agencies. In saying this he realized that they had not used amateur radio operators as a resource in this task, but would consider doing so in the right situation.

Ron said he was born and raised in Washington, D.C. He went to college in that area and graduated from aeronautical school in Daytona Beach. He served in the military in Army Aviation. He served in Vietnam for 18 months. With the GI Bill he went to pilot's training with the Airforce and worked up to be an instructor pilot. At the airport there are two separate areas. He has front line managers who work in the control room and do the talking to pilots. They cover the operational aspects. His job is more the political part of running the airport. His responsibility is the safety of all travelers going from point A to point B. He has to ensure that all is done by regulation, seeing that staff has the right training and credentials. There are 400 air facilities throughout the country. Tallahassee's airport is a level 7 facility. There are 40 employees and they operate 17 hours per day, seven days a week.

We have 12 VHF radios at the facility. We operate in the frequency range of 118.7 to 133.85. We did run out of frequencies. By way of a partial solution they went to 3 digits, for example, 123.675, a while back. Like everyone else, we have become more sophisticated and have gone digital. We will need still more frequencies as time goes on. The FAA will be spending 50 billion. We have been separating airplanes by radar. We will be getting rid of radar and start using satellites to do that work. Our radar still works, but is getting older.

They also work UHF on 12 frequencies. So we have VHF and UHF and use each for different purposes.

Tallahassee is an up/down facility. The controllers watch the planes visually. The tower is 97 feet high. The controllers watch the runways and the taxi ways. All we say and do in the tower is recorded. We have the capability to replay everything that happens and that we say. Like amateur radio operators we also have our own phrases and terminology. We use a phonetic alphabet. All controllers at the facility are identified by two letters. "Hey WS, how are you today?" Communication is extremely important, especially in emergency situations. We also have 16 FAA safety counselor volunteers, like former pilots. They help a lot. Controllers have to speak in just the way that we tell them to speak, specific approved phraseology. Words mean something. We don't have a lot of time to get the point across. So we require them to use the phonetic alphabet, to use 'affirmative', or 'acknowledge', for example. We speak in short sentences. Ron played a relatively short tape of an air controller handling the complexity of a number of planes coming into JFK.

Ron went on to talk about what happened in the air traffic business when 9-11 took place. When word came that the first plane had struck one of the World Trade towers, we thought that something mechanical had gone wrong with the plane. Then word came that the second plane hit the other tower. At that point we knew what was going to happen. When we got the word, we knew what we had to do. In any one day there are 65000 operations in the air. There are about 2800 planes in air at any one time. They had to get all those planes down on the ground as quickly as possible. Tallahassee only works with planes up to 10,000 feet. So we did not have a lot of planes to have to work with. Some planes were diverted to Tallahassee. Pilots were told where they were going to land, not where they wanted to land. We got all the planes on the ground quite quickly. Only planes approved from Washington, D.C. were allowed in the air. Even military operations were not allowed to fly. Ron said the operation did not go as smoothly as it could have. The military were somewhat guarded and their response was measured. In a national security event, the policy was that the military service would take control. But when the test came, they realized that the military could not take over, so they took control through the FAA. We now have planes that will be armed, and in a national emergency can shoot down other planes.

If you have more interest, check out [www.flightaware.com](http://www.flightaware.com) . Dan thanked Ron for the excellent presentation.

**BREAK**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Airfest - Dave Perryman KG4YZI reported on preparations for Airfest 2009, May 16 and 17, Saturday and Sunday. More volunteer hams are still needed for both days, giving other pairs of eyes for safety. Dave will send out an email with time schedules for those who have volunteered. Those working on Saturday can go to the Cajun supper that is planned. There will be an airplane marshalling training session on Friday. There will be a different mix of aircraft this year, a lot of good people and a lot of good planes.

May 9<sup>th</sup> Exercise - Alan Torledsky W1ABT stated that more people are needed for this exercise. Donna Barker WQ4M who will be in charge of the hospitals also needs more people. Alan said that the hospitals need to know we are there to help when needed. He is working to get the antennas right. There are five stations between the two hospitals. The exercise will also simulate shelters being set up.

Silent Key - Paul Eakin KJ4G called our attention to the fact that Sandy Donahue W4R4 died May 4<sup>th</sup> at age 63. Sandy was ARRL Southeast Division Vice Director. Paul noted that Sandy was a good administrator and was good with people. The funeral will be in Dothan. There will be a memorial at the Marianna Hamfest. Randy Pierce AG4UU moved that TARS make a donation for his memorial, the amount to be set and the exact destination would be at the president's discretion. The motion was seconded and passed.

TARS Clothing - Nick Adams W4EAF passed out information about the styles of shirts and jackets which can be ordered with the cost of each. Orders can be made at the next TARS meeting. Items must be paid up front as part of the exceptional deal that has been made. Checks should be made out to TARS. For an extra \$5 you can have a call sign or name added.

Nominating Committee - The nominating committee members are Nick Adams W4EAF, Chuck Basham AI4KA, Sal Martocci K4YFW, and Dave Barton AI4GF. Nick reported that each of the current officers was willing to serve another term. He asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Nominations are still open. Other names can be added by emailing Nick at w4eaf@arrl.net . The voting will be done at the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### OFFICERS' REPORTS

##### TREASURER'S REPORT and MINUTES

A motion was made and approved to accept the Treasurer's report and Minutes as printed in the Newsletter.

\*A copy of the Treasurer's Report is made a part of these Minutes.

Website - Dan noted there is a problem with our TARS URL. He will call that to the attention of Dave Heupel WE4RA, TARS webmaster.

Field Day - Dan called for a volunteer to coordinate this year's Field Day exercise. The request was followed by several moments of uncomfortable silence throughout the room. Numerous individuals were giving the possibility careful consideration.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was made and approved by acclamation at 9:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Pushor KI4MAJ for  
Chantal Blanton KI4NBU in her absence

## TARS Treasurer's Report

May 2009

Beginning balance April 1, 2009

Checking Account:	\$1348.80
Savings Account:	<u>\$2635.69</u>
Total	\$3984.49

Receipts deposited in checking account: \$57.00

Receipts deposited in savings account: 0.32

Receipts derived from the following:

\$45.00	Dues
6.00	Member Donations
6.00	50/50
<u>.32</u>	Interest paid to Savings Account
\$57.32	Total

Expenditures:

\$118.90	Food for 3-7-09 Auction
22.17	Talquin Electric March bill for Bethel Tower
61.25	2009 State Corporation Filing Fee
<u>\$202.32</u>	Total

Outstanding Expenses:

Food for 4-25-09 Area Ham Gathering

Ending Balance, April 30, 2009

Checking Account:	\$1203.48
Savings Account:	<u>\$2636.01</u>
Total	\$3839.49

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3 members renewed or joined since last report.

3 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 May is \$10.00.

## TARS Treasurer's Report

June 2009

Beginning balance May 1, 2009

Checking Account:	\$1203.48
Savings Account:	<u>\$2636.01</u>
Total	\$3839.49

Receipts deposited in checking account: \$ 0.00

Receipts deposited in savings account: 290.70

Receipts derived from the following:

\$110.00	Dues
125.00	Member Donations
55.70	TARS Clothing Order

\$290.70 Total

Expenditures:

\$123.20	Food for Radio Reunion, 4-25-09
74.79	Supplies for Radio Reunion, 4-25-09
22.16	Talquin Electric 5-8-09 bill for Bethel Tower

\$220.15 Total

Outstanding Expenses:

None

Ending Balance, May 31, 2009

Checking Account:	\$ 983.33
Savings Account:	<u>\$2926.71</u>
Total	\$3910.04

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8 members renewed or joined since last report.

7 individuals

1 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 \$8.75.

## A Tale of Two Tubes

By Dan Romnanchik, KB6NU

A couple of weeks ago, I worked N4QR on 40m CW. I could tell by the tone of his signal that he was operating a homebrew transmitter. There wasn't any 60 Hz on his signal, and it didn't chirp exactly, but I could tell it wasn't the pure tone you get out of today's radios.

I asked him about his rig, and he told me that it was a one-tube transmitter made with a 6L6. I forgot to ask him where he got the schematic, but a quick Internet search turned up the following:

\* The May 2005 issue of the K9YA Telegraph (<http://www.k9ya.org>) has an article written by N4QR titled, "The Wonderful One-Tuber," that contains the schematic for the transmitter. The K9YA folks don't make issues of The Telegraph available on their website, but I was able to get a copy of the issue by e-mailing them.

\* A 6L6 Classic (<http://www.io.com/~nielw/6l6/6L6.htm>)

\* WB2MIC 6L6 Transmitter Project  
([http://www.metaphoria.us/hamradio/6L6\\_transmitter\\_schematic.htm](http://www.metaphoria.us/hamradio/6L6_transmitter_schematic.htm))

The 6L6 is a pentode that, according to Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/6L6>), was introduced by the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) in July 1936. Apparently, it was used quite a bit in public address systems.

After the tube became successful, tube manufacturers introduced a number of variations, including the venerable 807. The original 6L6 was capable of delivering 19 W; the latest variation, the 6L6GC is rated for 30 W. The 6L6GC is still used in guitar amps, and is still manufactured in Russia, China, and by Groove Tubes ([www.groovetubes.com](http://www.groovetubes.com)) in the U.S. They sell a number of different 6L6 variants; the cheapest is \$16, the most expensive \$180!!

### Tube #2

One of the reasons I was interested in the 6L6 is because about a year ago I came across a schematic for a transmitter using 6A6 dual triode. I had just come into possession of a couple hundred tubes, and while I didn't have a 6A6 (at least I haven't found one yet), I do have a couple of 6J6 dual triodes. They're not quite as high power as the 6A6, but I'm still thinking about building a little transmitter with one.

As you might expect, there's a bunch of information on the Internet about this tube:

\* The Jones Push-Pull Transmitter ([http://wv7g.home.mindspring.com/jones\\_6j6.html](http://wv7g.home.mindspring.com/jones_6j6.html)) was built with a 6J6 instead of a 6A6.

\* Another schematic can be found on the AKOB website (<http://www.qsl.net/ak0b/>).

\* 6J6 data sheet (<http://www.qarqnas.net:3000/tubedata/6J6.pdf>) from the GE data book.

One interesting fact about the 6J6 is that IBM used it in the 604 computer. Unfortunately, they found it to be not as reliable as they wanted it to be, but at first none of the tube manufacturers were interested in making a more robust version. This led IBM to set up a tube-making laboratory where they could experiment with designs. They developed a more reliable version of the 6J6 and finally convinced RCA to manufacture the tube. According to the author of the history of the 604 (<http://ed-thelen.org/comp-hist/IBM-604.html#new>), part of the concern is that IBM would decide to get into the tube business.

So, the next time you hear a signal that doesn't sound so perfect, remember that there just might be a story behind it. Ask the op about his transmitter, and listen to what he or she has to say.

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When not pondering the mysteries of vacuum tube part numbers, KB6NU teaches ham classes, works CW on the HF bands, and blogs about ham radio at <http://www.kb6nu.com>.

## 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

