



Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society October 2005



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

Guest Speaker for the October Meeting

Chris Floyd, Director of the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross will present the program for the October meeting.

The President's Corner:

When Dan, KI4HGO asked me if I would have an article for this month's newsletter, of course I answered "Yes." Then I had to decide what to write and how to write it. Its not that I have trouble writing, it's more about what I want to say. I thought of covering all that went wrong when I was in Mississippi, or maybe even what went right. I thought about trying to put a humorous spin on some of it, but sometimes my humor gets lost in the translation.

In the end, I thought I would go back to the training we receive and the reminders that we get and pass along a word or two about how to prepare for deployment. I don't mean mentally prepare, but rather how you might prepare for future deployment. At this writing, I am just a couple of hours away from being able to be deployed again. For Katrina, it took several days to gather everything together, and a couple of days for shopping as well.

Now, we have all seen the lists of things to gather together. So I won't go into that so much as I want to reiterate that you should prepare for the unexpected. I certainly didn't expect to go to a disaster area, such as Hancock County, Mississippi and have to worry about another storm coming through. Rita was this one's name. I really don't think anyone expected it. Fortunately, as far as radios were concerned, I was prepared. I had taken advantage of the surplus of deep cycle ups batteries from the State of Florida Emergency Operations Center. Sure, it was a burdensome ninety pounds or so. But I wanted power no matter what.

cont

The surprising thing is, only a few other folks seemed to have batteries. I had stationed my radio at Net Control. It was directly connected to the battery, and had a trickle charger recharging the battery at all times. At net control, there were two other radios and neither of these radios were connected directly to a battery. These two other radios were each connected to their own twenty amp power supply. Anything else that needed AC power was connected to the same AC power strip as these two power supplies and they were all depending on the computer ups device that was located under the desk, on the floor. Well, the ups were located there until the power went out from Rita's rain bands. Then, the ups was needed in the EOC. Something about priorities.

Fortunately, when the power did go out, we were able to just switch my radio's frequency from monitoring Gulfport Operations, to that of the local repeater. Total down time was about five seconds. An HT was tuned to the simplex frequency while we looked for a lighting system and tried to reconfigure the wiring for the other two radios. Wouldn't you know that neither of the other radios had Anderson Power Poles?

At least two of us had brought additional Power Pole connectors and the crimping tool. In short order, and after installing a Power Pole splitter, we had a second, and then a third radio connected to the battery. This allowed us to remove the HT from the table, and operate as we had been operating while on commercial power. The battery held up to the load. When the commercial power came back up, the trickle charger did its job and in time, the green "charged" light came back on.

This incident did not occur during a time of heavy traffic. Actually, traffic was rather light. That made for a relatively easy transition from one wiring scheme to another. But it could have been a real mess trying to handle heavy message traffic and rewire most of the radios in the dark. But that brings up the point I want to make. The time to prepare is now, and tomorrow, and next week, and next month and so on. Today, I am better prepared than I was a month ago. Next month I will be even better prepared. If you haven't begun preparing, may I suggest that you start with a battery and Anderson Power Poles? They will serve you well, whether you travel to a distant county, or you stay in your own shack. You can also switch radios out on the fly at training operations such as the Spaghetti 100, coming up later this month.

73

KI4EWB
John

Amateur License Class Reminder...

Our next Amateur Radio License Class will start on Wednesday, October 19, 2005 from 6-9 PM at the Red Cross Chapter House on Plaza Drive. If you know of someone planning on taking the class, ask them to call the Red Cross and pre-register. As in the past we have limited "comfortable" seating, we don't want to turn anyone away. The first hour or so will be Morse Code instruction by John Reynolds, AD4DO and the remainder of the class will be done by Phil, N4IPH. The VE testing session will be on December 6, 2005 at 7 PM at the regular testing site on the west side of Tallahassee.

Amateur Radio License Class



Starting October 19th, 2005

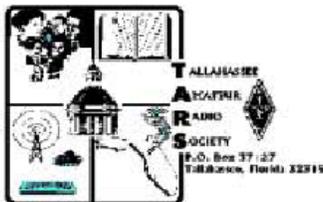


The Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society will sponsor an Amateur Radio License Class starting **October 19th, 2005**. The class will run from **6 PM to 9 PM** at the **Red Cross Offices**, 187 Office Plaza Drive. There is no charge for the class. We will meet each Wednesday night for about 7 weeks and conclude with a ARRL Volunteer Examiner test session (\$14 test fee). FCC Exams will be given on **December 6th, 2005** by our local ARRL-VE team...at the regular testing site...more information on this during the classes.

The course will cover the necessary FCC rules & regulations, electronic theory, operating practices and Morse Code (5 wpm) instruction for the FCC **Technician Class Amateur Radio License**.

To register for the Amateur Radio License Class:

Call the **American Red Cross Office** at **(850) 878-6080**.



Testing Information:

The ARRL/VEC administered FCC Amateur Radio License Examinations are provided in Tallahassee the first Tuesday of EVEN numbered months (February, April, June, etc.) in the conference room located at 2631 Municipal Way at 7:00 p. m.

TARS Meeting

(No Report Available for September)

Silent Keys

From ARRL Headquarters, September 2005

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of these amateurs:

K3PSK, Thomas H. Goldsmith, Fort Walton Beach, FL
W4HAM, Stephen J. Kostka, Largo, FL

Volunteers are Needed for the Following Event

22nd Annual Spaghetti 100 Bicycle Race

Date: October 22, 2005
Time: 8:00am
Place: Miccosukee, northeast of Tallahassee
Contact: E-mail Dan (KI4HGO) at ki4hgo@arrl.net



Amateur Radio Antenna CC&R Bill

From AARL

NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 23, 2005--New York Congressman Steve Israel has reintroduced legislation that could make it easier for radio amateurs living in communities with deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) to erect suitable antennas. Arkansas Congressman Mike Ross, WD5DVR, signed aboard as an original cosponsor of the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act" (HR 3876). ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, who attended Israel's public announcement of the bill September 19 on Long Island, pointed out the Amateur Radio volunteers always fill the gap after other communication systems fail in an emergency or disaster. He notes the bill's introduction comes in the immediate aftermath of positive media coverage of Amateur Radio's response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

TARS Treasurer's Report

September 2005

As of 09/1/05:

Checking Account Balance: \$324.04

Savings Account Balance: \$4999.03

Receipts deposited in checking account: \$0.00

Receipts deposited in savings account: \$0.00

Receipts derived from the following:

\$0.00 Dues

0.00 TARS Auction

0.00 Donations

0.00 50/50

0.00 Savings Interest

\$00.00 Total

0 members renewed or joined last month.

0 individuals

0 family members

0 students

Expenses:**

\$76.00 - P. O. Box 37127 annual fee.

Outstanding expenses:

Kent Hutchinson (KC4TOC) for TARS van gas, TARS battery, and TARS Dept. of Revenue fee.

Randy Pierce repeater antenna expenses.

Donations:

None.

ARC (~\$202.00, less \$134.55) 2004 TARS Auction proceeds.

*Reimbursement request for hurricane-related expenses submitted to State of Florida, Division of Emergency Management (Ivan Tracker #1819 and Charlie Tracker #4757). John Fleming, FDEM is looking into to the status of request.

Can you identify these OLD FOGIES from years gone by?





JOTA 2005 de Phil N4IPH



If you have a Boy Scout, Cub Scout, or a daughter in Girl Scouts..mark the weekend of October 15-16 on your calendar. It's time for JOTA! Scouting's Jamboree On The Air (**JOTA**), is a 48-year-old tradition that provides an opportunity for the Amateur Radio community to expose young people to Amateur Radio. It can be anything from talking on a HT through one of the local repeaters to making a satellite contact. The ARRL for years has been a sponsor of JOTA ..you can check the October 2005 of QST or the website for this years articles. If you have not had a chance to get on the air..especially HF..during the weekend of the Jamboree...you should try it this year. There are scheduled "calling" frequencies..to make the initial contact and then move off to an adjacent frequency for the QSO. You can also pick a frequency and make your contacts by calling "CQ JOTA". If you are interested in picking up some JOTA patches..they can be ordered from the BSA national office in Irving TX for \$4.00..+ tax, information is on the ARRL website.

HB9S, the World Scout Bureau headquarters in Switzerland, GB2GP at Gilwell Park, England and W1AW, at ARRL in Newington are on the air during most of the weekend. They also provide a very nice QSL for each of the Scouts that make a contact. Some stations will also make their own certificate for the event.

Suggested Worldwide JOTA Frequencies on HF

Band	SSB (MHz)	CW (MHz)
80	3.740/3.940	3.590
40	7.270	7.030
20	14.290	14.070
17	18.140	18.080
15	21.360	21.140
12	24.960	24.910
10	28.390	28.190

The AO-51 "Echo" team has announced that during JOTA 2005, the satellite will be available for for exclusive use by scouts and by satellite operators communicating with scouts. "Please allow the scouts the opportunity to make as many contacts as possible via AO-51 during this short time period," said Mike Kingery, KE4AZN, of the AO-51 team.



For the JOTA weekend, AO-51 will be configured in the dual FM repeater mode. This provides two independent FM repeaters with separate uplink and downlink frequencies for use by JOTA

If you do participate in the event...even if it is just a few contacts...send a report to the ARRL and let them know. There is a link on the ARRL website to send your report. Hope to hear you on the air!

News from our neighbors

Sportsman's Paradise Amateur Radio Club meetings are every 3rd Thursday of each month at the Wakulla County Emergency Management Facility (Sheriff's Department) at 7:30pm.

Wednesday Night Net Meeting 2000 Hours 146.550 MHz Simplex

Message from the President:

Dear Members:

As promised here are the names of the accomplished individuals who passed/upgraded during the last testing session: William Light and Beverly C. Walker-Payzant are new Tech's, Kerry Lemley, KG4IXK, passed the general and then the extra exams. Congratulations to these individuals.

73 Ed KC4MHM

Thomasville Amateur Radio Club net every Tuesday night at 8:00pm on 147.195MHZ Duplex. Club meetings on the first Saturday of each month at the Plaza Restaurant at 7:30pm.

[Paul Duval from NOAA was guest speaker at the Sept. meeting](#)

Message from the President:



October is a busy month for the Thomasville ARC, busy to the point we refer to it as "October Madness". With the exception of one weekend, we'll be doing something *every weekend of the month*. First up is the regular club meeting which is on Saturday Oct. 1st, and the main issue is planning for handling the month's events. The second Saturday, Oct. 8th is the annual "Fly-In" at the Thomasville airport. We usually set up a demonstration station for visitors and to give our

members without HF privileges a chance to get on the air and make a few contacts. The third weekend is technically open unless someone makes an appointment with the VE team for a test. Because of all the other events, this month is appointment only. If you're in Tallahassee, you can call me at 528-9539 to save yourself a long distance phone call if you're interested in upgrading. The next event is the Spaghetti 100 Bike ride and we handle that in conjunction with the TARS group in Tallahassee. The ride starts in Miccosukee, runs through Thomasville, Boston, and Monticello and returns to the start point, 100 miles in one day. The date for this event is October 22nd and the race kicks off at 8am. Finally, we return to Boston the following weekend, Oct. 29th, to



support the Mini Marathon, and here much like the bike ride, we keep track of the runners and keep the finish line notified about who's out front. So if you're looking for a time to get some exercise for both yourself *and your radio*, make your plans to join us for one or all of the events in TARC's "October Madness" I look forward to seeing YOU there....



73 de Mike (KE4FGF)

The Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio (SPAR)

From WorldRadio, October 2005

de Phil N4IPH

The recent issue of WorldRadio had an interesting article by Walt Fair W5ALT on a group formed in January 2004. Five ARRL Life Members started discussing their concerns over the direction of the Amateur Radio Service. They contacted several ARRL Directors about their feelings...but received limited responses. Within a short period of time they realized that they were not alone in their concerns. An internet form & website developed and eventually the Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio (www.spar-hams.org). At the present time there are about 300 members..including many from South America. The main goal of the group is to retain the "technical basis" of Amateur Radio. The membership is free and there are only a few rules...*hold a valid Amateur Radio License..register using their callsigns and adhere to standards of decency in all discussions.* You can download your own membership certificate off the internet. The first official act was the submission of comments to the FCC opposing the lowering of technical requirements as proposed by the ARRL. They did not take an "official" stand on the code/no code debate. When the ARRL decided the "Rag Chewers" award was no longer to be supported..SPAR rejuvenated the award and now offers it free to hams worldwide in both English & Spanish. They have also initiated an award for XYLs naming them members of ARTS..Amateur Radio Tolerance Society. One major concern of SPAR is the "rift" between long-time hams and newcomers. They have produced a seven paged booklet that can be customized for individual local areas..giving contact information..repeater info and local Amateur clubs & organizations. One point the group wants to make is that they are not against the ARRL (many are ARRL members or Life Members). They support the development of new communications methods..but do not support gathering large numbers of "ill-prepared" and "uninterested" warm bodies or filling the airways with digital modes used by a small number of amateurs.

To read more about the group..check out the website mentioned above..if you want to join the forms...everyone is welcome. If you just want another certificate to hang on the wall...it's as close as your printer...

2005 TARS Membership Roster

By Carlton Wells

The 2005 TARS Membership Roster has been posted the TARS web site, <http://www.K4TLH.net>. Please check the roster for proper spelling of your name and callsign. Email the Treasurer, ag4ut@arrl.net with any comments or questions.

If your name is missing from the roster, it indicates your dues payment has not been received. If you are a student and your name is missing from the roster, it indicates your renewal form has not been received (dues for students are free). Use the form in this newsletter for mailing your renewal to the Treasurer or see him at the next TARS meeting.

Currently, there are **86 TARS members**.

Net News:

Don't forget these popular nets in the Tallahassee area:

2 METERS

The **Seven Hills Two Meter Side Band Net** meets every Sunday night at 8:45pm.

The frequency is: 144.208 USB Everyone is welcomed.

73's John KG4GXT

Sparc Wednesday Night Net Meeting 2000 Hours 146.550 MHz Simplex

Thomasville Amateur Radio Club net every Tuesday night at 8:00pm on 147.195MHZ Duplex. Club meetings on the first Saturday of each month at the Plaza Restaurant at 7:30pm

6 METERS

The **Big Bend Six Meter Net** meets Wednesday evenings at 8:30 p.m. Eastern Time or at the conclusion of the Sportsman's Paradise Amateur Radio Club Two Meter Simplex Net - - whichever is later. The Net meets on 50.150 MHz upper sideband. Use whatever antenna you have, but try to get around to using a horizontally polarized antenna.

73's IVAN (K4SRB)

Other nets are listed on the K4TLH website. All the new ham radio operators are welcomed to use the repeaters and join in on the nets.

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.

TARS Officers

President: John Swindle - KI4EWB
Vice President: Dan Moniz KI4HGO
Secretary: John Love - NZ4QJ
Treasurer: Carlton W. Wells - AG4UT

TARS Committees

Repeater Trustee #1: Randy Pierce AG4UU
Repeater Trustee #2: Vacant
Newsletter Editor: Dan Moniz KI4HGO
Historian: Shawn Wilson AG4VE
Equipment Manager: Carlton Wells AG4UT
Education: Phil Ashler N4IPH
Special Events: Carliane Johnson KG4CJT
Webmaster: David A. Heupel WE4RA

Upcoming Events:

TARS Meetings: Every first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. EDT at Publix at Ocala Rd.
Friday Lunch starting 11:30 a. m. EDT at Golden Coral on No. Monroe St.
Capital District ARES Net: Every Sunday, 8:00 p. m. Eastern on the AE4S repeater 146.655.
North Florida ARES Net: Every morning, except Sunday on 3950 KHz at 9:00 a. m. Eastern.
The Seven hills two meter side band net meets every Sunday night at 8:45pm. on 144.208 USB
The Big Bend Six Meter Net meets Wednesday evenings at 8:30 p.m. on 50.150 MHz upper sideband.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Submitted material received by the editor from dues paying members in good standing, on or before the 20th of the month will appear in the following month's newsletter as space permits. Comments and/or suggestions to improve the newsletter are welcomed. The Printed Circuit is 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 Dan Moniz KI4HGO. Submissions for The Printed Circuit may be emailed to: **KI4HGO@arrl.net**

