



Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society

April 2007



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

Chris Floyd will be the speaker for this month's meeting.

Please Support AE4S Repeater...

For the past 29 years, Bill Jordan (AE4S) and I have operated AE4S Repeater. It is the product of Bill's vision to establish a high quality, wide area communications system providing daily benefit to the local amateur community and a valuable technical resource to aid the public during periods of emergency and natural disaster. In order to accomplish this feat, we decided to mix business with pleasure. Out of a couple of communications-related commercial activities came a 600-foot tower, communications equipment building, and emergency power generator. And, the repeater antenna was placed very prominently at the top of the tower.

As a result of the antenna site changing hands a couple of times, we have lost much of the autonomy we enjoyed over the years with our repeater system. As of five years ago, the current owner asked us to pay monthly rent. Since Bill and I still had certain extracurricular business interests, we continued to fund the repeater from our profits along with a few contributions from local amateurs. Unfortunately, the major source of our funding has declined to the point where we must ask the local amateur community to shoulder more of the burden so that we may preserve this valuable communications resource for our amateur community.

The annual rent for the antenna site is \$2,000. The autopatch line adds another \$300 annually; resulting in a combined monthly outlay of almost \$200. Add to this the expense of equipment maintenance and renewal, the cost of operating the repeater becomes a bit daunting for the amateur budget. But it's worth it! There are few communications sites in our local community that rival the performance of the AE4S repeater system. With your help, Bill and I will endeavor to maintain the quality of AE4S Repeater in the tradition you've experienced since its inception.

Contributions to the AE4S Repeater operating fund may be mailed to me directly or via PayPal to e-mail N4JL@att.net. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Jerry Kessler (N4JL)
6628 Tim Tam Trail, Tallahassee, FL 32309-1937

April 4, 2007

Minutes of the March 2007 TARS Membership Meeting

TARS - Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society

Saturday, March 10, 2007

The TARS March meeting was held in conjunction with the TARS Auction and Picnic at Tom Brown Park in Tallahassee on Saturday, March 10, 2007.

CALL to ORDER by Vice President Alan Torledsky, W1ABT after the auction, picnic, and an impressive low-level fly-by provided by the EMS helicopter crew that Alan invited to attend the festivities.

Alan welcomed the approximately 24 members and guests who stayed to attend the meeting.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Carlton AG4UT read the Treasurer's Report and received unanimous approval to reimburse several of the club's outstanding bills. Carlton distributed receipts to members for dues and various contributions. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

* A copy of the Treasurer's Report is made a part of these Minutes.⁵

MINUTES

Chantal KI 4NBU reported that "unofficial" Minutes of the January meeting are available despite the lack of quorum. The February meeting was cancelled due to a power outage at Publix during inclement weather. The Board held its quarterly meeting on February 15, 2007.

Alan W1ABT reminded members that the next meeting will be held April 5, 2007 at 7 p.m. at Publix, and the next TARS testing session for ham licenses and upgrades will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday April 3, 2007 at the Channel 49 studios located at 950 Commerce Blvd, in Midway, FL. See the K4TLH.net website for a map and information on what applicants need to bring.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Steve AD4E suggested that the 2007 Field Day be focused on the ham radio craft itself and on the area hams and their interests. He recommended consideration of J. Lee Vause County Park which overlooks Lake Jackson. The park is at 6024 Old Bainbridge Road in Tallahassee, just north of the intersection of US Hwy 27-North and Northwest Capital Circle. The facilities are newly renovated and family-friendly, handicap and parking access are good, and spacious pavilions are available for rental. The members approved further investigation of the feasibility of using this park as a location for Field Day.⁵

2. Gene AI 4KK asked the club to consider participating in the Comm Camp he is organizing. A decision was not taken at this time.

Respectfully submitted, Chantal Blanton, KI 4NBU

TOSRV South 2007

April 21-22, 2007

The 26th annual Tour of Springtime Rural Vistas South

In a nut shell:

The Standard Route 200 miles in 2 days. (Quincy to Albany on Saturday) and (Albany to Quincy).

This event involves the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society, the Thomasville Radio Club, and the Albany Radio Club.

The ride starts at the Quincy Recreational Center at 7:30am.

We (TARS) need to meet at the Quincy Recreational Center at 6:45am on the 21st.

We will cover 21 check points between Quincy and Cairo. Most of you will be though before noon. The rest of us will continue to Albany.

On the 22nd we will man the 21 check points again on the return trip.

Last year we had about 30 Hams involved in the event.

If you are interested in participating in the Tosrv please send me an e-mail at KI4HGO@arrl.net

Please let me know what days and times you are available, along with your t-shirt size.

Cell: 850.510.7713

Hme: 850.668.7848

Thanks for all the volunteering you guys do through out the year.

73 Dan ki4hgo

TARS Inventory

Steve - AD4E has the following four items for members' use:

1. Drake 2-B HF receiver;
2. Swan 350 HF transceiver;
3. MFJ Antenna Analyzer;
4. Bilal I sotron compact HF Antennas.

You may contact him at 414-7235 or ad4e@arrl.net if interested.

General Class Upgrade Course de Phil N4IPH

For the first time in many years..we will be offering a General Upgrade Class in response to the FCC dropping the Morse Code requirement to get on HF. The class will begin on Wednesday May 16th (6 - 9 PM) and run for three weeks (May 16, 23 & 30) at the Red Cross Chapter House. The regular VE Testing session will the following Tuesday..June 5th at the FOX49 Studio. The class will cover the material and questions for the current (good through June 2007) General Class Amateur License. You should have a current Technician Class License before attending this course...Technician material will not be covered this time. No text will be provided as we do in the entry level course...but it is suggested you download and print a copy of the current question pool before coming to the first session. Looking to the future..we want to remind everyone that the General Question Pool will change on July 1, 2007...this set of questions will reflect the rule & frequency changes made by the FCC in the last few months. Another Technician class will be scheduled in the fall followed by a General Upgrade shortly after.

Please call the Red Cross at 894-6741 and have your name added to the class roster if you plan on attending the course. You may also sign-up on line at <http://redcross.tallytown.com/fags/AmateurRadioLicenseCourse.pdf> . Thanks again to Chris Floyd at the Red Cross for providing a room and PowerPoint set up for the course.

Now Is The Time To Learn Morse Code de Phil N4IPH

I don't think I had heard as much discussion on the local repeaters on a single subject..than back in December when the FCC made their announcement to eliminate Morse Code as requirement for HF. There were people calculating when they were going to pass their written exam so that they would by-pass the CW requirement and hopefully earn their General ticket. Now that February 23rd is gone...along with the Morse Code requirement...the pressure is off...why not give CW a try. The G4FON software is still available from the website...so why not see what it is like.

No matter what side you were on with the CW issue...like PSK31 and RTTY...CW is simply another mode of communication that takes a very simple setup..(wire antenna...inexpensive receiver/transmitter..power supply). If you check over some of the results of the various contests during the year...you'll find that a good portion of the "rare" DX contacts are made by using CW. Morse Code may have been eliminated as a FCC "requirement" for the HF privileges...it will be a very long time before it is "eliminated" from the airways.

Know Your Privileges! Misconceptions Regarding Tech HF Privileges From ARRL Website March 19 2007 de Phil N4IPH

The ARRL warned that after the FCC dropped the Morse Code requirement on February 23, 2007...some Technicians remain unaware or uninformed as to what they may and may not do on the HF bands. Dan N1ND..the Regulatory Information person at the ARRL thought there should be some clarification and issued the following information..

- First...Technicians have no phone privileges except on 10 meters..
- You need to upgrade to General or Extra Class to gain the other "phone" band privileges..
- Technicians can use CW in the old Novice bands frequency..
- "Digital Voice" is not authorized on 80, 40 or 15 meters...this is still a form of "voice" and digitized voice is not permitted in the CW portion of the bands.. in the eyes of the FCC...only CW is allowed..

What Technicians do have on HF...

- Maximum of 200 watts power limit on any authorized HF frequency...
- Legal limit on VHF and UHF
- 10 meters-Technicians & Novices licenses have CW, RTTY and Data privileges from 28.000-28.300MHz and CW and SSB from 28.300-28.500 MHz..Not much activity on 10 meters until the sunspots improve conditions in a few years..
- CW (and only CW)..
 - on 3.525-3.600 MHz on 80 meters
 - on 7.025-7.125 MHz on 40 meters
 - on 21.025-21.200 MHz on 15 meters

Dan further warns that just because you hear voice (SSB) conversations...that doesn't mean U.S. amateurs have phone privileges....Some regions or countries have "phone" allocations than ours...The FCC requires you to know where you may or may not operate and with what modes...Dan suggests.. "Stick to the privileges your license allows or risk hearing from the FCC.."

**CAPITAL DISTRICT
AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICES
COMMUNICATIONS PLAN
(Hurricane)**

I. Scope. This plan covers what the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) will do if a hurricane threatens all or part of the Capital District, or another area for which amateur radio assistance may be requested from the Capital District.

II.. Situation.

A. Assumptions

1. A category 1-3 hurricane will make landfall within three days in the Big Bend area from the Suwannee River to the Apalachicola River.
2. Accompanying rains, wind, and storm surges will be present
3. At some point within the three days before landfall, all of Franklin county and parts of Wakulla and Taylor Counties may be evacuated.
4. There is the possibility of tornadoes throughout the Capital District.
5. The Capital District Chapter of the American Red Cross will open several risk and/or host shelters.
6. County and state level Emergency Operation Centers will open, as will the Tallahassee EOC.
7. The Capital District Area will be without landline or cell phone coverage for 72 hours
8. There will be no commercial electricity for 72 hours.
9. There will be a sundown curfew
10. Roads will be largely impassable for 12-72 hours due to fallen trees and power lines, or flooding.
11. The 146.655 MHz repeater will be operational

B. Guiding principles

1. County Emergency coordinators are in the best position to assess the needs of their respective counties and will be responsible for making assignments within their counties.
2. The District Emergency Coordinator will coordinate and facilitate activities at the district level and will leave to the county Emergency Coordinators the task of meeting the needs in their counties.
3. The DEC will assist county EC s if they do not have the resources necessary to fulfill their tasks.

III. Mission

The Amateur Radio Operators of the Capital District Amateur Radio Emergency Service will provide communications support for 1. The American Red Cross, the Tallahassee Office of the National Weather Service, and the city, county, and State Emergency Operations centers beginning one day before landfall and lasting until one week after the storm has come ashore.

IV. Execution-how will we do this

A. Capital District Nets

1. Pre landfall. Starting 48-72 hours before landfall, the DEC will call a special Capital District ARES on 146.655 MHz at 8 p.m. eastern time. The purpose of the net will be

- a. To give Emergency Coordinators information for them to use in planning what actions they might have to take.V.
 - b. To alert the amateur community at large about what the situation is, what they should be doing, and what they may be asked to do and when
 - c. To solicit(as necessary) persons willing accept an ARES assignment.
 - d. This net may meet more often as the hurricane approaches landfall.
 - e. At the daily nets the following will be or will have been accomplished
 - 1) 72 hours before landfall
 - a) Review District Plan
 - b) Review message handling procedures
 - c) Initial call for volunteers
 - d) Initial determination of needs of served agencies
 - 2) 48 hours before landfall
 - a) Repeater Restoration Team alerted and plans reviewed
 - b) Jump kits/72 hour kits completed
 - c) Further call for volunteers.
 - d) Assignments for risk shelters, EOCs identified and made
 - e) Contact made with adjacent ARES Districts, and communication schedules established
 - f) Capital District representative checks into NFL AREC net
 - 3) 24 hours before landfall
 - a) National Weather Service Spotters alerted and deployed if necessary
 - b) decision made when next Capital District ARES net will be held.
 - c) Review and practice Simplex procedures
 - d) Assignments made
2. After landfall. Once the storm has made landfall,
- a. A district wide net will be re-established on 146.655
 - b. County Emergency Coordinators should check into the net on 146.655 at the earliest possible time.
 - 1) If that repeater is down, they should try the following repeaters
 - a) 147.195, 147.03, 146.865, 146.91, 442.100, 442.850
 - b) If no repeaters are operational, they should monitor 146.655 MHz and use it as a simplex frequency.
 - 2) EC s should let the DEC know, as much as possible:
 - a) Their status
 - b) The Status of ARES members in their counties
 - c) The availability of ARES members to accept assignments.
 - d) Which frequencies they are using for their nets.

B. Net operations

- 1. The DEC will designate an NCS to run the District nets and will designate which repeaters will be used for operational and administrative nets.
- 2. All nets will be directed nets.

- 3. Message traffic will use the ARRL message format.
- C. The DEC or his designee will pass traffic outside of the affected area.

V. Supplies/logistics

- A. Amateur radio operators will take their own equipment with them, to include power supplies.
- B. Amateurs will need to provide food and water for the period they are deployed
- C. The hosting agency will be able to provide simple first aid if needed. If more serious attention is required, contact the DEC or NCS for assistance.
- D. Amateurs will provide their own transportation to their assignment.
- E. The DEC will provide the appropriate TRACKER number if necessary.

VI. Who is in charge

- A. The Capital District Emergency Coordinator will be in charge of the District ARES=s response. He will be located at his home and will monitor the Administrative and Operational frequencies.
- B. If the District EC is unavailable, the EC for Wakulla County will act in his place. He will be located at his home and can be reached at the District Administrative frequency.
- C. Communications-Primary and alternate HF/VHF frequencies
 - 1. HF. The primary district level HF frequency will be 3.950 MHz. The Alternate frequency will be 7.254 MHz.
 - 2. VHF/UHF. The primary district level frequency will be 146.655 MHz. The alternate repeater frequencies will be 147.195, 147.03, 146.865, 146.91, 442.100, 442.850 MHz.
 - 3. If no repeater is working, simplex will be used on 146.655 MHz.

This plan becomes operational upon notification by the DEC or when a storm is within 72 hours of landfall.

Want adds:

I am looking for someone who has a spare HF antenna tuner that may be willing to sell it. I am getting a TS-520S and would like to see if anyone has one before I try going anywhere else. I do not mind if it is automatic or manual, new or old. I would just like to have one to get on the air with. The TS-520S has a PEP of 200w an covers 160-10 (minus 1 or 2). Please contact me at ki4pzs@yahoo.com or call (850) 402-1455.

73 - KI4PZS
Maurice "Mo" Wright

TARS Auction and Picnic

The TARS Tailgate/Auction/Picnic was held again at the City's Tom Brown Park on **Saturday March 10** to avoid a conflict with the FWSP Tailgate. Unfortunately, I missed the event again. Due to spring break my choices included attending the Tailgate/Picnic alone, or going to Texas with the family, we all know how that turned; again. I did talk with some of the participants via cell phone, the reports were good!! I understand that the food was excellent and some good bargains were available. Hope everyone had a good time.



Annual Shamrock Scurry 5K Race

The Annual Shamrock Scurry 5K Race on Saturday, March 17th, at Celebration Baptist Church, was a big success. A record breaking number of participants ran the course. Runner Pre-Registrations DOUBLE the rate of last years, nearly 300 participated in the event. After the race, there was the pancake breakfast and awards ceremony.

A note from Terry to the Hams:

Hi Dan and fellow Amateur Radio Operators!

Things have finally gotten back to "normal" after the Shamrock Scurry 5K Race, so I wanted to again thank each of you for all the help you provided during the race! It was invaluable to know continually how things were going, any problems, and so on!

Thank you very much for all your help and, most especially, to Dan who coordinated it all!

See you next year!

J. Terry Ryan, President
Children of Ireland Group, Inc.
A 501c3 US Non-Profit Organization
2580 Care Drive, Suite #2
Tallahassee, Florida USA 32308
PH: 1-800-326-4112, Ext 3307
FAX: 850-656-3655
Web: www.childrenofireland.us

Kudo's to:

W1ABT - Alan
KI 4OEE - Ben
WA4WES - Dave
KG4GXT - John
AI 4CW - Kerry
KI 4MAJ - Larry
KI 4AGD - Mike
KI 4OVB - Kalynn
K4MVL - Theo



AirFest 2007



CAPITAL CITY AIR-FEST 2007

MAY 19 - 20

AMATEUR RADIO INFORMATION

David Perryman, KG4YZI

Work Number – 617-2805

Home Phone – 421-1548

Email – kg4yzi@arrl.net

AirFest Ham Frequency = 146.550.

Typical Tasks Available (2 hour shifts)

- 1) Shadow the AirFest security lead.
- 2) Shadow the lead for aircraft marshalling (parking & movement).
- 3) Gate security at the visitor entrance.
- 4) Roving security/safety.
- 5) Security at the plane crossing points of the visitor walkways. (As needed basis for special events in outlying areas).
- 6) Perimeter security.
- 7) Assist in plane marshalling (parking & movement).
- 8) Assist in developing the Ham Booth.
- 9) Assist in the operation of the Ham Booth.

TALLAHASSEE AIRPORT FLIGHT CONTROL FREQUENCIES

Air-Fest Ops = 133.850. If you have a dual band radio, this frequency is ground control for AirFest aircraft.

Other TLH Aviation Frequencies

Tower = 118.70

Approach/Departure – East & South of TLH = 135.800

Approach/Departure – West & North of TLH = 128.700

Ground Control = 121.900

Clearance Delivery = 126.650, often combined with TLH ground control.

AUTOMATIC TERMINAL INFORMATION SYSTEM = 119.450

Local Net News:

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**

Thomasville Amateur Radio Club: This net meets 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

Capital District ARES Net: Every Sunday, 8:00 p. m. Eastern on the AE4S repeater 146.655 (tone 94.8)

Code Practice Net: This net meets Monday thru Friday at approximately 8:00pm. on 28.250 (CW) 28.350 (USSB).

UHF Nets:

The "Friday Friendly Net": It is moderated by Mary, KI 4JOO. This net meets on Friday evenings on the 443.400 UHF repeater. The offset is 5 Mc plus and the PL encode/decode tone is 131.8. Check-ins can also join in via echolink by connecting to Node #3950 from other areas or from their PC. This net is scheduled for 1 hour. It's very informal and we discuss anything callers what to talk about. Everyone is invited to participate.

The "Winlink Conference": This net is held every Wednesday evening starting around 8PM. This is moderated by Al, W3YVQ, out of Baltimore, Md. Hams can connect direct to "Fred's happy serve" on node #129799, or tune into 443.400 UHF repeater to participate. This is a loosely directed net and pertains solely about digital communications. Regulars check in from around the USA and discuss all issues of Em Comms using digital equipment. It's mostly a technical group. A large amount of the success of the TLH DIGITAL GROUP comes from the elmering from this group. This net can be lengthy in time, sometimes lasting up to 3 hours.

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.

VISITORS from the North

Jerry Steen K4EFM and Shirley W4EFM recently visited the Friday Lunch bunch at the Golden Corral



New Membership or Renewal Form



2007 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: Indiv. ____ 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 - KI 4HGO
Vice President: Alan B. Torledsky - 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

Upcoming Events:

TARS Meetings: Every first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. EDT at Publix at Ocala Rd.
Friday Lunch 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

EDITORIAL POLICY

Submitted material received by the editor 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). The editor is Dan Moniz KI 4HGO. Submissions for The Printed Circuit may be emailed to: KI4HGO@arrl.net

