



# Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society

## March 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

**The TARS Picnic and Auction will be held  
Saturday, March 10, 2007 at Tom Brown Park.  
The event will start around 8am. Don't miss it,  
there is something for everybody.**

The TARS Tailgate/Auction/Picnic has been postponed one week to **Saturday March 10** to avoid a conflict with the FWSP Tailgate mentioned below. The event will be held again at the City's Tom Brown Park. Plan to be there around 8 AM so we may start the auction promptly at 9 AM and eat around noon-ish. All area amateurs are invited so please pass the word.

*Note: the regular TARS meeting at Publix on March 1 will not be held.*

This year, in an effort to keep the pace of the auction moving along, we've decided that any item auctioned must carry a \$10 minimum/starting value. Items of lesser value will be sold directly.

Tables and an area will be on a "first-come, first-serve" basis. If we don't get the Pavilion, look for everyone behind the recreation area. Talk-in will be the 146.655 repeater or talk-around within the park.

Ricky, KD4AST, advises the **Apalachee Valley Radio Association's Tailgate & Picnic** will be held again this year at Falling Waters State Park (FWSP) on March 3. FWSP is right off I-10 near Chipley. The event is FREE.

We usually start arriving at around 9:00 AM CST. I don't think the park opens until 8:00 AM CST. The park is located a couple of miles south of the I-10 Chipley exit, off of highway 77. Go south on 77 from the exit for approx.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile or so and there will be a Park sign on the right hand side of the road. Turn left onto the road that leads to the park and follow it until you reach an intersection. Go through the intersection and follow the road into the park. I am sure you can find better directions on the Florida Parks web site. Anyway hope to see all of you over there on March 3rd.

Thanks,  
Ricky Whittington  
ARRL DEC, East Panhandle District  
Volunteer Examiner  
Home:850-593-5718  
Work:850-593-1237  
rkwhitti@earthlink.net  
kd4ast@earthlink.net

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## 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.

## Our Neighbors to the North

The Thomasville Amateur Radio Club Held a very successful test session at the Thomas County Library February 24, 2007. VE's and Participants had a very satisfying outing.

First was the mid-month breakfast at Ryan's Steak house:



Then the tail gate meeting:



And Finally the Test Session:

## February Test Session Results

February saw 10 people show up for tests or administrative upgrades.

**Those folks are:** Russell Shirley, KF4GBS, Climax, GA, upgrade to General  
Gina McCulley, W6VQD, Pinetta, FL, upgrade to General  
Glenden Cunningham, K4BDD, Valdosta, GA, upgrade to General  
Lee Rykard, KI 4NYU, Enterprise, AL, upgrade to General  
Kenneth Rykard, KC5AVR, Eastman, GA, upgrade to General  
Bill Kitchens, KD4WQR, Thomasville, GA, upgrade to General  
John Swicord, KE4RWR, Bainbridge, GA, upgrade to General  
Mark Swicord, KD4EYF, Thomasville, GA, upgrade to General  
James Cason, KE4I OK, Tallahassee, FL, upgrade to General



We also had young Colby Swicord, son of KE4RWR, who tried the Tech test on for size. Colby, who is 11 years old, came up a little short but did very well for someone his age and

now that we know where he needs to study, the next time out, we'll surely be hearing him on the air with his own callsign. The VEs at this session were Alan, N4KGT, Bobby, N4KXL, Lawrence, KC4LYC, Buddy, WD4CJI, Mike, KE4FGF, and on his first outing as a VE, Dan, KI 4HGO. Congratulations to all these fine folks on their upgrades. Our next VE session will be March 17<sup>th</sup>, and if there is interest in another study session for any of the license classes, let one of our VEs know and we'll arrange it...

de KE4FGF

Late News Flash... After getting his General class license, Jim, KE4I OK went home and made a 17 meter contact with VK9DNX, a DXpedition to Norfolk Island which is located just north of New Zealand...he's really putting that new license to work!!



## Annual Shamrock Scurry 5K Race

The Annual Shamrock Scurry 5K Race set for **Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**, at Celebration Baptist Church – last year the event drew over 175 runners, they are expecting up to 300 this year. We will need at least 6-8 hams for this event. This is a great event for new hams to have fun and learn the ropes!!



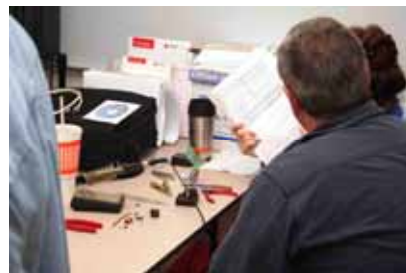
If you are interested, please send me an e-mail at [ki4hgo@arri.net](mailto:ki4hgo@arri.net). We need to meet at the Celebration Baptist Church no later than 7:45am. We will be monitoring the 655 repeater for talk in.

Hope to see you at the Scurry  
De Dan ki4hgo

## Our Neighbors to the South



Digital class conducted by Dave Davis (Feb.03,2007)



# OPERATING

By Steve Katz WB2WIK/6

Is it just me, or are a lot of operators doing stuff wrong?

I don't think it's me. Newbies are always welcome, and the more the merrier, as far as I'm concerned, so I'm not griping about newcomers. I'm griping about their operating procedures - and some of these ops aren't very "new," at all.

Here's an example: I call CQ, and somebody answers not with a routine reply but his life story. "WB2WIK you're 59 here in Detroit. I was listening to you before, but couldn't get back to you. Handle is Joe. Back to you!"

That's not a proper reply to a CQ.

Or, I answer someone else's CQ and they reply, "Yeah, the 2 station I hear ya. Back to you." That's not any kind of reply.

C'mon guys, it's not hard to do it right. If you're answering someone's CQ, use their callsign, your callsign, maybe your location, and end it. Example: "WB2WIK this is W1XYZ in Boston calling, over." Perfect.

I might not get that due to static, interference, the phone ringing or lots of reasons. If I don't, I'll ask for a repeat. "The W1, what's your full call? Go ahead." If you get a request like this, be prepared to answer the question, specifically. Like, "This is Whiskey One Xray Yankee Zulu, over." That would do it. Answering any other way is likely just wasting time.

If you call CQ and someone answers you, follow the protocol that's developed over the past century because it works: "WB2WIK this is W1XYZ. Thanks for the call. You're about 57 here in Boston, and my name is Frank. How copy there? WB2WIK this is W1XYZ."

Reasons to follow protocol abound, but here are some good ones:

- You don't know how well the other station hears you, since he hasn't given a report, yet. As such, if you keep talking there's a chance he isn't hearing any of it, and you're wasting time and bandwidth. Find out what's happening first, before starting a real rag-chew.
- You don't know if the other station understands much English (yet), so if you go on rambling a lot of what you're rambling about might be over his head. Get more info first.
- Keeping exchanges short nearly assures an actual contact will complete. Making transmissions long can result in the band dying while you're transmitting, and when you finally stop, you'll hear nothing but static. You can get a feel for the propagation over the path after a few transmissions, but can't guess at this by hearing a five-second call. Also, at first you don't

know how much time the other station has. He may have 60 seconds for a quick report exchange, or might be interested in a long rag-chew. No way to know that in the first transmission.

I can't tell you how many times I've answered someone's CQ and they neglected to mention their name in the first transmission. Why is that? This didn't used to happen years ago - it's happening now.

Once the contact's really been established and each station knows the other's callsign, name and location, then it's time to explore other options. Find some common ground to talk about, and go at it.

When I first contact someone, I nearly always comment on their location, since chances are, I've been there or very close to it. "Oh, you're in Boise? Wow, last time I was there to visit HP, there was a foot of partly cloudy on my rental car and I had to dig out to leave the parking lot! How's it like up there today?" Something like that. It's a conversation starter.

A lot of phone operators like to hear comments about their modulation. Usually, I'll comment only if I think someone sounds particularly good or particularly bad. Many don't take the "bad" comments very well. Makes me think more about giving such a report, but what's the purpose of telling someone they sound good, if they don't?

I think it pays to mention your transmitter power level right away. Here's why: If your station has parity with the station you're in contact with, there's a pretty good chance you'll hear each other about the same. If you're running a kilowatt and the other guy's running QRP, there's a really good chance he'll hear you long after you lose him. I'll mention, "Running a kilowatt to a 3 element beam at 55 feet here," and wait to see what the other station says. If he's running 100W ("barefoot"), my very next transmission will also be at that level, to keep it even. If he's running high power and I don't hear him very well, I'll stick with high power, since with lower power the QSO would likely end. But this is the reason to at least mention what's going on.

CW is another subject, but surely worthy of mention! I hear bad operating on my favorite mode (CW), too. Much more than ever before.

The age-old protocol of exchanging significant data in an abbreviated fashion and logical sequence seems to be disappearing, except with the experienced ops. In the "old days," the newbies closely followed what the old timers did, and caught on quickly to the protocol. For some reason, that doesn't seem to be happening today, and I don't know why not.

I hear people call CQ and then sign "KN." That's ridiculous, and inappropriate. I hear people call CQ FISTS who are really terrible CW operators, making me wonder what the FISTS membership really contributes. Numbers chasing?

I answer a CQ, and the other station might send "NAME HERE IS JOHN JOHN BT MY QTH IS KANSAS CITY KANSAS CITY BT YOUR SIGNAL IS 599 599 BT SO BACK TO YOU..."



Well, that's rather awful. Understandable for someone's first contact, but definitely not for their 100<sup>th</sup> or 1000<sup>th</sup>.

A way better format is: "TNX OM UR RST 599 599 HR QTH KANSAS CITY MO KANSAS CITY MO OP JOHN JOHN. HW?"

See the difference? My way gives the report FIRST, which is protocol, and for a reason. My way says "QTH," followed by the info - instead of wasting time with "MY QTH I S," (since "QTH" alone already means "my location is"). My way gives not only Kansas City, but which state, since there are two of them, side by side. Instead of saying "name here is" I just use "OP." As in "the operator here is." That's all that's needed. My way says, "HW?" which means "how copy?" instead of wasting time with "SO BACK TO YOU..." which is just silly.

I hear newbie CW ops send "R R R R." I guess that means "roger, roger, roger, roger." How many times does one need to send that? One would suffice. Or none at all would also suffice. I have to assume you're copying me, or we wouldn't be having this contact.

I also work CW operators who can't hold up their end of a conversation - even worse than on phone. I suspect this is because they're very dull people, or really can't copy me, or really can't copy code, or something. I like to rag chew on CW, and try to be interesting. When you tell me where you are located, I'll usually comment on something about it. "INDPLS, EH? CONGRATS ON SUPERBOWL VICTORY." Or maybe, "BALTO, EH? LUV THE SOFT SHELL CRAB BT IN SEASON?" "FREEPORT ME? BN TO L L BEAN STORE AT MIDNITE THR BT STL OPEN THAT LATE?" Whatever. I'll hold up my end of the conversation. Try to hold up yours; otherwise, what's the point of meeting people on the air?

Real newbies can be forgiven almost anything; but I hear a lot of people who've been on the air for months or years, still operating poorly. No excuse for that - it means they're simply not listening and learning from others on the air who are operating just fine.

Honing operating skills is key to making more contacts, having more fun on the air, and ultimately being the leader others will want to emulate.

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**HERE'S ANOTHER RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER:** Just in case you have not had the opportunity to do so, please take a moment to put your emergency contact information online. Remember, this information gives law enforcement immediate access to this information and makes it easier for them to speak with someone quicker in cases of emergency. Anyone with a valid Florida driver license or identification card can go online to [www.hsmv.state.fl.us](http://www.hsmv.state.fl.us) and enter this information. The website is secure and will only be accessible by law enforcement officials. Also, please refer friends and family members to our website so that they too can do the same.

David Perryman

Data Listing Unit, MS-74

2900 Apalachee Pkwy; Tallahassee, FL 32399-0500

Phone Number (850) 617-2805; **New Fax Number - (850) 488-3010.** Alternate Fax Number (850) 414-9769

Visit us at [www.hsmv.state.fl.us](http://www.hsmv.state.fl.us)

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## 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)

**The Big Bend Hamster Net:** This net meets on Tuesday nights at 7:30pm Eastern on the AE4S repeater 146.655 (tone 94.8). Call 574-7965 for more detail information.

### 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.

# 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:KI4HGO@arrl.net)

