

# The Printed Circuit

The Monthly Publication of the  
Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society  
August, 2020



**T**ALLAHASSEE  
**A**MATEUR  
**R**ADIO  
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P.O. Box 37127  
Tallahassee, FL 32315

## MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 6, 2020 TARS MEETING

Compiled and Submitted by: Tom Brooks (K4TB) – TARS Secretary

(NOTE: The business portion of the meeting was conducted via radio net due to the Covid-19 Virus Pandemic. The program portion was conducted via a video teleconference that followed the business meeting.)

Call to Order: Gerry Gross (WA6POZ), as net control for the weekly TARS Information Net, opened the net at 7 PM on the 147.03 MHz repeater.

Check-ins: KN4FCC – Todd, KK4SIH – Don, KA5USN, Chief, K4TB – Tom, NT4B – Bob, KN4JKW – Dave, WA6POZ – Gerry, N4JEL -Mike, N4JL – Jerry, KN4TDL – Jeff, KN4WOW – Ed, KQ3O – Justin, KB2NUI – David, W4LCR - Clay

Gerry then turned the net over to President Don Pace (KK4SIH) who welcomed everyone and explained the meeting format of a radio net for the business portion followed by a Zoom meeting for the program portion.

Business Committees:

Minutes: President Pace asked for approval of the July minutes as stands if there were no objections, and hearing none he announced the minutes were accepted.

Treasury Report: There was no report. The Treasurer was not present.

Education and Testing: Gerry reported for July there were two sessions on a Saturday with 8 people taking and passing the test. He said on July 29th two people did “paper upgrades” from Technician to General class. He said also there would be no testing in August and the next session will be September 12th.

Currently 5 people are signed up for September testing. There will be no testing in October but a session will follow in November. Don thanked Gerry for the update.

Repeaters: No report.

Other: Don said that he would try to obtain written committee reports in advance for future meetings.

Old Business/ New Business/ Discussion/Announcements:

Field Day: Don thanked the Field Day participants and said he had a few commemorative pins available for them.

Donated Radio: Todd says he still has the radio to give to WFSU’s old radio museum once the epidemic subsides.

Elections: Don mentioned that we will need nominations for officers soon so please contact Chuck Basham (AI4KA) if you are interested in running for an office. Chief said he would like to run again for Member at Large. Tom said he has been Secretary for over 4 years so he was looking for someone to be Secretary and would train that person.

Newsletter Editor and PIO: Don asked for volunteers for these positions. He said Dave Davis (WA4WES) no longer wants to be editor. Don also said that he (Don) has been doing the PIO job but it is difficult for him to do that in addition to the president’s duties. There were no immediate volunteers.

Adjournment –The net was closed and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:23 pm.

Program: Shortly following the business meeting was a Zoom video teleconference led by Joe Bassett, W1WCN, Operations officer for Florida Army MARS (Military Auxiliary Radio System). He presented a talk with video clip about the MARS organization, its services, his experience and duties with MARS, and how to join MARS. There were 19 attendees.

# Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Doug Ferrell,  
KD4MOJ, Treasurer

	<u>for period</u>	<u>year-to-date</u>
<u>Beginning</u>	<u>25-Aug-20</u>	<u>Jan 1, 2020</u>
<b><u>Balances:</u></b>		
<b><u>Cash on hand</u></b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b><u>Checking</u></b>	<b>\$ 3,507.92</b>	<b>\$ 2,688.20</b>
<b><u>Account:</u></b>		
<b><u>Savings Account:</u></b>	<b>\$ 3,102.29</b>	<b>\$ 3,101.52</b>
<b><u>Total:</u></b>	<b>\$ 6,610.21</b>	<b>\$ 5,789.72</b>

## Summary of Month's Activity:

<b><u>Total Receipts:</u></b>	<b>\$ 0.38</b>	<b>\$ 1,482.57</b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 638.72</b>
<b><u>Expenditures:</u></b>		
<b><u>Receipts Derived From:</u></b>		
<b><u>Members Dues:</u></b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 740.00</b>
<b><u>Fifty/Fift</u></b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 42.00</b>
<b><u>y</u></b>		
<b><u>Donation</u></b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 630.00</b>
<b><u>(KI4NBU &amp; N1HJ)</u></b>		
<b><u>Veteran's Radio</u></b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b><u>Fund</u></b>		
<b><u>Field Day Radio</u></b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b><u>Fund</u></b>		
<b><u>Interest (Savings)</u></b>	<b>\$ 0.38</b>	<b>\$ 1.15</b>
<b><u>smile.amazon.co</u></b>	<b>\$ 22.98</b>	<b>\$ 69.42</b>
<b><u>m</u></b>		
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>\$ 23.36</b>	<b>\$ 1,482.57</b>
<b><u>Expenditures:</u></b>		
<b><u>American Red</u></b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b><u>Cross:</u></b>		
<b><u>Fifty-</u></b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b><u>Fifty</u></b>		
<b><u>ARRL Insurance</u></b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b><u>Spagetti 100 -</u></b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b><u>TARC</u></b>		
<b><u>TARS &amp; Feathers</u></b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b><u>Plaque</u></b>		
<b><u>Storage &amp;</u></b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 284.57</b>
<b><u>Supplies</u></b>		

<u>Field</u>	\$ -	\$ -
<u>Day</u>		
<u>VE Expenses</u>	\$ -	\$ -
<u>Tower/R</u>	\$ -	\$ 138.90
<u>peater</u>		
<u>Maintena</u>		
<u>nance</u>		
<u>Florida Dept of</u>	\$ -	\$ 61.25
<u>State</u>		
<u>Post Office Box:</u>	\$ -	\$ 154.00
<u>Total:</u>	\$ -	\$ 638.72

Transfer Checking -> Savings:

Ending Balances - Apr 22, 2020:

<u>Cash on hand</u>	\$ -	\$ -
<u>Checking</u>	\$ 3,530.90	\$ 3,530.90
<u>Account</u>		
<u>Savings Account</u>	\$ 3,102.67	\$ 3,102.67
<u>Total</u>	\$ 6,633.57	\$ 6,633.57
<u>*Veteran's Radio Fund</u>		\$ 500.00
<u>*Field Day Radio Fund</u>		\$ 697.00

## Ham Happenings

Gerry WA6POZ

September 2020 DX

It is possible that some of the listing stations canceled their plans due to the Corvis-19

From	To	Prefix	Call, () is the IOTA designation
01-Sep	???	5T	5T5PA
01-Sep	???	5Z	5Z4VJ
01-Sep	???	BY	BA5CJ/5 (AS-141)
01-Sep	???	FR	FR8TG
01-Sep	???	XW	XW2DX
01-Sep	???	Z8	Z81D
01-Sep	???	ZL7	ZL7STU
01-Sep	01-Jan	CE9	8J1RL (AN-015)
01-Sep	01-Sep	OH	OH1TD (EU-096)
01-Sep	01-Sep	SV	SV8/HB9FIH (EU-049)
01-Sep	04-Sep	VU	AT2ATT, AT2BCC, AT2SFU
01-Sep	05-Sep	GI	GB100RS
01-Sep	09-Sep	VU	AU2FC
01-Sep	12-Oct	VU	AT2DP
01-Sep	12-Sep	8P	8P9QC
01-Sep	14-Sep	TK	TK/DJ0TOP
01-Sep	15-Sep	9G	9G5GS

01-Sep	23-Sep	VU	AT2ARA
01-Sep	30-Sep	K	K1VSJ (NA-046)
01-Sep	30-Sep	VU	AT3HLX, AT3HLZ
01-Sep	13-Oct	CE	CB33M
01-Sep	30-Sep	V6	V6TOPG2020 (OC
04-Sep	20-Sep	TK	TK20A
06-Sep	17-Sep	ZA	ZA/OE6TQG
15-Sep	10-Oct	7Q	7Q7AO
15-Sep	23-Sep	OY	OY/DL2AQI, OY/DL4APJ,
17-Sep	26-Sep	T8	T88FM, T88JH, T88MK, T88RR (OC-009)
22-Sep	29-Sep	PJ4	PJ4/M5RIC
23-Sep	06-Oct	KH8/S	W8S (OC-200)
26-Sep	27-Sep	PJ4	PJ4CC

DX sources - The Daily DX, 425 DX News, or DX Zone

## Amateur Radio Equipment Insurance

Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ

Is your amateur radio equipment insured? Do you think you are covered by your homeowner's (or renters) policy? Maybe, maybe not.

Your homeowners policy may not be enough ... Homeowners contents coverage is usually not "All-Risk", replacement cost coverage. There is limited coverage at best for mobile equipment and inadequate coverage for antennas, rotors and towers can be a problem. Your homeowner's policy usually has a higher deductible (\$250, \$500 or more) and mechanical breakdown coverage just isn't available.

Or maybe you just want to chance it? Is that a wise decision in the state with the highest lightning strike rate (second highest in the world)? And then there are those pesky hurricanes and tornadoes. Both pack winds that are not friendly with towers and antennas. Water and rigs don't go together either. A fallen tree on your ham shack or car with a mobile rig can really hurt. Then you might simply do what I did 3-4 years ago. I dropped one of my HF transceivers and it landed square on the front panel. Total loss. Some losses are smaller and less disastrous. Recently the rear power jack developed an intermittent short and the power pole connectors melted. Small problem, but the repairs were \$250 plus over \$100 in shipping.

The ARRL insurance program is what first comes to mind. But, not advertised in QST, is Ham Radio Insurance Associates as an alternative choice. The two are described briefly below.

## ARRL Amateur Radio Equipment Insurance

You can insure your Amateur Radio and related equipment through the ARRL programs. Equipment insurance also can be used to insure computers and other equipment used in your Amateur Radio installation.

### ARRL Insurance Program coverage highlights:

- Property Covered: Ham radios and related equipment including computers!
- Deductible: Only a \$50.00 deductible applies!
- Competitive Rates: Minimum premium of only \$20.00!
- Computer Equipment: Computers, hard drives, printers.
- Theft from an Unattended Vehicle: Included with your premium.
- Coverage for towers & antennas up to \$15,000.00 replacement cost!
- A great rate of \$1.40 per \$100 of equipment covered!

Details can be found at <https://www.arrlinsurance.com/>.

## Ham Radio Insurance Associates (HRIA)

The HRIA amateur radio equipment insurance plan is the economical, efficient way for you to protect your investment in commercially manufactured amateur radio equipment, computer equipment, software and even your antennas, rotors and towers. All of your ham equipment and more can be insured under one customized, well planned insurance policy. Even mechanical breakdown and electrical damage coverage is available through the HRIA plan.

### Ham Radio Insurance Associates program coverage highlights:

- No membership required
- Covers amateur radio equipment, computers, software, antennas, rotors and towers
- Optionally covers mechanical breakdown and electrical damage, including loss or damage from a short circuit or blowout (extra premium).
- Low \$50 deductible
- Low cost

For more information, see <https://www.hamradioinsurance.com/>.

Even after reading the glowing praises each provider has on their website, you should do your own research. Talk to other hams to hear their experiences. Check the various on-line amateur radio discussion groups. I find eHam (<https://www.eham.net/reviews/view-category?id=63>) to be a good source of comparisons.

Like many discretionary expenditures, we all tend to put off buying insurance that is not required by law. Don't wait until it's too late!

## **Contesting**

Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ

There are many ways to enjoy amateur radio, but RadioSport (contesting) is the most competitive. You may compete against other contesters or against yourself. Although the bands may be crowded, you can enjoy RadioSport from the privacy of your own radio shack.

September is the start of a busy season for contesting. There is a total of 18 significant contests this month. Four of them are major contests. There are nine State QSO Parties, at least one each weekend. WA7BNM Contest Calendar lists a record of 108 RadioSport activities for September worldwide, more than enough to keep you busy depending on your interest – phone, CW or digital. The minor events are too numerous, too short, or too focused to warrant attention here. The more significant ones are described below.

### Preview of September Weekends

#### September 5-6

September starts off with the All Asian DX Contest, Phone. This is one contest where it is important for you to read the rules before entering. The exchange is signal report and the operator's age. Multipliers are the different Asian prefixes worked on each band. Contacts on 80 and 10 meters are worth two points; the other bands one. Everyone must operate unassisted. The highest scorer on each Continent of the Single Operator Multi Band category will receive a certificate from the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan.

Many members are familiar with the CWT— fun, popular, weekly competitions sponsored by CWops. The CW OPEN (CWO), held on the first Saturday in September, is guided by the same principles along with enhancements to make it a serious, annual competitive event. There are three separate competitions at three separate times — each is called a “session.” Each station may be worked once per band in each session. Entry can be made to any or all of the sessions. Each session is scored separately. Entry into multiple sessions will be added together for a combined score in a separate, additional aspect to this event. All entries are as single op. Two to ten operators may join together as a team. Please check the rules for the exchange, scoring and other important details.

The first of two state QSO parties (SQPs) this weekend is the Colorado QSO Party on Saturday of this Labor Day weekend. ALL amateur bands are included except WARC bands. This includes all bands above VHF and UHF. There are power multipliers giving extra points to QRP and low power stations. All modes are permitted with CW and digital contacts receiving four points and SSB receiving two. Operators using Mixed mode also receive four points per Q. The exchange is RS(T) and state.

The Tennessee QSO Party is on Sunday. It is also an all-band, all mode SQP. All QSOs are worth three points. Multipliers are the 95 Tennessee counties. The exchange is RS(T) and state. Certificates are awarded to clubs as well as individuals, so be sure to include your club name in your Cabrillo log.

September 12-13

The Worked All Europe (WAE) DX Contest, SSB is almost a Major contest and some would say that it is. Many leading contesters claim the WAEDC to be the most challenging contest of the year. Being a true blue DX contest, only intercontinental QSOs between DX and Europe are counted. Therefore, the number of DX QSOs here may be similar to the amount of DX usually worked in the CQWW. Moreover, the unique feature of QTC-traffic adds much fun and another operating challenge to the contest. Be sure to check the rules so that you understand the exchange and the sending of QTCs.



There are two other full-fledge Major contests this weekend. The first is the ARRL September VHF Contest. W/VE stations may work anyone, but DX stations must work W/VE stations. Exchange of your Maidenhead grid square is required. Exchange of signal report is optional. Scoring gives higher multipliers for UHF and above bands. The ARRL VHF Contest is very popular for the 6 Meter band. With the right band openings, contacts with both Europe and Asia are possible with CW, FT-4 and FT-8. Such DX is a pleasure when operating in a contest where distance is a multiplier. As with most ARRL events, there is also a club competition.

There are two North American Sprint contests this month, one for CW this weekend and one for RTTY next weekend. Sprints have an interesting twist – with station A calling CQ and being answered by station B, station B inherits the frequency after the QSO. Station A will need to find someone else calling CQ or QSY to another frequency to call CQ again. Station B can now call CQ on the original frequency but gives up the frequency to station C who answers him. The best strategy is to search & pounce for someone calling CQ, then take over his frequency and call CQ yourself. Repeating the S&P then CQ routine gives you two QSOs on each frequency. There is also a convention about using your callsign during an exchange, so use Google to do a little research before trying your first sprint. Don't bother to spot anyone or use a DX cluster because everyone is continuously QSYing. According to N6TR, "The Sprint is the most fun you can have in 4 hours with your clothes on." If you do find sprints to be fun, almost every weekend there are usually smaller sprints that aren't on our approved list. There are also a "practice" RTTY and CW sprints every Thursday evening.

There is one minor contest this weekend, the Russian RTTY WW Contest. Multipliers are the Russian regions and the DXCC countries. Our exchange is signal report and CQ Zone.

There are two state QSO parties this weekend. Stations trying to work all counties in the Texas QSO Party will have a real challenge – there are 254 of them. You do have both Saturday and Sunday to work on that though. An interesting twist for non-Texas stations is that you may add 500 bonus points to your score for each Texas mobile worked in five different counties regardless of band or mode. If you work the same Texas mobile in five

additional counties, you add an additional 500 bonus points, etc. The exchange is signal report and state. All modes are acceptable.

The Alabama QSO Party is Saturday only and is for CW and SSB (plus Mixed) modes. Multipliers are the 67 counties. The exchange is RS(T) and state.

## September 19-20

The Major contest this weekend is the North American Sprint, RTTY on Sunday night. Check the description of the NA Sprint, CW last weekend for information about this unique contest style.

All of the Scandinavian countries play host to the Scandinavian Activity Contest. Non-European stations receive one point for every complete Scandinavian QSO on 14, 21, and 28 MHz and three points for every complete QSO on 3.5 and 7 MHz. The exchange is RS(T) and a 3-digit serial number. The contest is for CW and SSB only.

This is a big weekend for state QSO party fans. There are four SQPs this weekend. The Iowa QSO Party is an all-mode contest. There are 33 Iowa counties that serve as multipliers. The exchange is RS(T) and state. It runs for 12 hours on Saturday only.

The New Jersey QSO Party is also an all-mode contest. There are 21 New Jersey counties that serve as multipliers. The exchange is RS(T) and state. It runs for 12 hours on Saturday only.

The New Hampshire QSO Party is also an all-mode contest. There are 10 New Hampshire counties that serve as multipliers. The exchange is RS(T) and state. The contest runs both Saturday and Sunday.

The Washington State Salmon Run is an all-mode state QSO party. Although digital modes are accepted, FT8 and FT4 contacts are not. There are 39 Washington counties that serve as multipliers. The exchange is RS(T) and state. The contest runs both Saturday and Sunday. The Washington State Salmon Run is a favorite because you could potentially win a frozen salmon.

September 26-27

The final weekend of the month has another major contest – the CQ Worldwide RTTY DX Contest. The contest draws over 15,000 participants and over 3300 log submittals from around the world. There are three types of multipliers: each CQ Zone, each DXCC entity and the W/VE states and provinces. This is a full 48-hour contest. There is also a club competition. The CQ club eligibility radius is 250 miles. The exchange is RST and CQ zone.

### About Participating

Before participating in any of these contests or events, please familiarize yourself with the times, frequencies, exchanges, rules, etc. associated with the event. The WA7BNM Contest Calendar (<http://www.contestcalendar.com//index.html>) can provide most of the information, as well as a link to the contest's home page, which will give you a “flavor” for the contest and let you know about any plaques or other special prizes like a bottle of wine or a frozen salmon. Alternatively, you can Google the name of the contest or event and go directly to their home page.

If you are a new or casual contester, there is never a better time to start or return to contesting than now. Pick one of the easier contests, such as a State QSO Party or one of the minor DX contests, and jump in. (No, first read the rules as suggested above.) You do not have to score a lot of points but do spend some time in the chair having fun. As you are enjoying the leisurely pace of one of these slower contests, picture it on steroids as a major contest with wall-to-wall stations all calling CQ. After it is completed, submit your log to the contest sponsor and report your activity on 3830Scores. Then look at the contest results on 3830 to see how you compared with all others. With this contest completely under your belt, check the Schedule of Contests to see what next weekend has in store for you.

## Summary

Contest	Type	Date	Time	CW	SSB	RTTY	Other Digital
All Asian DX Contest, Phone	DX	5-Sep	0000Z	C			
CWOps CW Open	DX	5-Sep	0000Z	C			
Russian RTTY WW Contest	DX	5-Sep	0000Z			R	
Colorado QSO Party	QSO	5-Sep	1300Z	C	S	R	
Nebraska QSO Party	QSO	5-Sep	1300Z	C	S		D
Tennessee QSO Party	QSO	6-Sep	1800Z	C	S	R	D
WAE DX Contest, SSB	Major	12-Sep	0000Z		S		
Texas QSO Party	QSO	12-Sep	1400Z	C	S	R	D
Alabama QSO Party	QSO	12-Sep	1500Z	C	S		
ARRL September VHF Contest	Major	12-Sep	1800Z	C	S	R	D
North American Sprint, CW	Major	13-Sep	0000Z	C			
Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	DX	19-Sep	1200Z	C			
Iowa QSO Party	QSO	19-Sep	1400Z	C	S	R	D
New Hampshire QSO Party	QSO	19-Sep	1600Z	C	S	R	D
New Jersey QSO Party	QSO	19-Sep	1600Z	C	S		
Washington State Salmon Run	QSO	19-Sep	1600Z	C	S	R	D
North American Sprint, RTTY	Major	20-Sep	0000Z			R	
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	Major	26-Sep	0000Z			R	
Maine QSO Party	QSO	26-Sep	1200Z	C	S		

## EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

The past month has presented an unusual, almost unprecedented hurricane scenario. Two named storms have developed in the Gulf of Mexico at the same time. Not since the 1950s has that happened. Neither Marco nor Laura posed a threat to the Big Bend, but for a couple of days it looked like Laura, then as only a Tropical storm, would hit Tallahassee. Its track shifted west and western Louisiana is in for a pummeling from the now category 3 hurricane. Nonetheless, for those two days the ARES folks were scurrying around to make those final preparations in anticipation of the storm hitting us. Of special note, the National Weather Service asked the hams in the Florida Panhandle, south Georgia, and south Alabama to report weather conditions and storm related damage. Stations

would call in their reports on HF, VHF, and/or the SAR to three hams who have access to the NWS Tallahassee chat room. Everything was setup ready to go, but fortunately Laura decided to move west, so the Tallahassee NWS office did not need us.

So, there are some changes arising because of different methods of reporting information. Chat rooms are being used, and the ARES officials are looking at ways hams can be better used at the State Emergency Operations Center. Because several people who work there tested positive for the Corona virus, it has established some rigid requirements for admission. We can meet them, but it is something of a hassle, so we are exploring the possibility of, like we are doing with the NWS, creating alternate ways of giving the SEOC traffic that has come to it via ham radio. Chatrooms are one possibility, as is sending traffic to it via Winlink, or having a dedicated telephone line to the Operations side of the SEOC.

As mentioned, things are still fluid.

From a broader perspective, mid August through the beginning of October is the peak of hurricane season, and forecasters have predicted a “very active” season. Marco and Laura may, therefore, be just the beginning of an exciting two month hurricane mania. Let’s hope not, but, of course, while we hope for the best, we prepare for the worst.



## TARS Officers

<u>Don Pace</u>	<u>Todd Clark</u>	<u>Tom Brooks</u>	<u>Doug Ferrell</u>	<u>Bob Clark</u>
<u>KK4SIH</u>	<u>KN4FCC</u>	<u>K4TB</u>	<u>KD4MOJ</u>	<u>K9HVW</u>
<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Board Member at large</u>
<u>dgpac</u>			<u>KD4MOJ@</u>	
<u>@yahoo.com</u>	<u>KN4FDCC</u>	<u>K4TB</u>	<u>KD4MOJ.org</u>	<u>K9HVW@ARRL.net</u>
<u>@hotmail.com</u>	<u>@ARRL.net</u>	<u>@earthlink.net</u>		

**TARS COMMITTEES/COORDINATORS**

**Repeater Trustee: Randy Pierce AG4UU**

**Assistant: Doug Ferrell KD4MOJ**

**K4TLH Callsign Trustee: Dave Miner W4SKG**

**Equipment Manager: Vacant**

**Education: Phil Ashler N4IPH**

**Testing Coordinator: Norm Scholer K4GFD**

**TARS Officers**