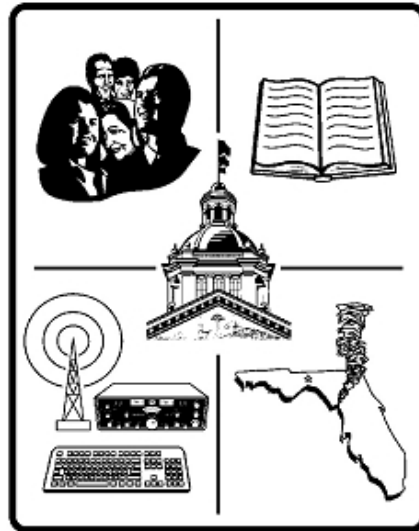


# The Printed Circuit

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



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## MINUTES OF THE JULY 9, 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: K4TB – Tom, WA6POZ – Gerry, KN4FCE – Brian, NT4B – Bob, KN4WOW – Ed, WA4WES – Dave, KC4EMS – Jack, KN4JKW – Dave, AI4KA – Chuck, KN4PKF – Will, KM4BRR - Richard, KN4SCE – Ryan, KK4SIH – Don, KN4FCC – Todd, KN4WFH – Steve, KN4JKW – Steve, K4NRD – Pat

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

Business Committees:

Minutes: Secretary Tom Brooks (K4TB) thanked Vice President Todd Clark (KN4FCC) for preparing the minutes for the last meeting since Tom could not attend. President Pace asked for approval of the June minutes as stands, if there were no objections, and hearing none he announced the minutes were approved. Treasury Report: There was no report as Treasurer Doug Ferrell (KD4MOJ) was not present. Education and Testing: Gerry reported for Testing Coordinator Norm Scholer (K4GFD) that the last testing session was held June 27 with 9 people tested, resulting in 5 passing the Technician exam, 2 passing the General exam, and 2 passing the Extra exam, including club member Nick Adams (W4EAF). Gerry said the next class will be July 18 at 10am, and if needed, also at 1pm. Steve asked if there was a new test format yet. Gerry said only the Extra class test had changed a bit, as of July 1. He said that pre-registration was required at [tallytarsve@gmail.com](mailto:tallytarsve@gmail.com). Repeaters: No report.

(At this point on there was some difficulty with receiving Don's transmissions)

Old Business/ New Business/ Discussion/Announcements:

Field Day: Don, Todd and Tom each reported on their respective Field Day participations from their homes. Todd did some digital contacts and Tom made some satellite contacts.

Upcoming Meetings: Todd said we would probably be doing this meeting format (i.e. radio net/Zoom meeting) for a couple more months and asked for volunteers to provide Zoom presentations.

Adjournment – The net was closed and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:22 pm.

Program: Immediately following the business meeting attendees joined a Zoom video teleconference led by Randy Pierce, AG4UU, the TARS Repeater Coordinator. He presented a talk with pictures of the various repeater stations the he oversees for the club, and discussed the different installations and operations of the various repeaters. There were 18 attendees. At the conclusion the attendees thanked Randy for the presentation and the great service he is doing for the club.

# TREASURER'S REPORT- JUNE 2020

Doug Ferrell, KD4 MOJ, Treasurer

	<u>for period</u> 22-Jun-20	<u>year-to-date</u> Jan 1, 2020
<b>Beginning Balances:</b>		
Cash on hand	\$ -	\$ -
Checking Account:	\$ 3,646.82	\$ 2,688.20
Savings Account:	\$ 3,101.91	\$ 3,101.52
Total:	\$ 6,748.73	\$ 5,789.72

## Summary of Month's Activity:

Total Receipts:	\$ 0.38	\$ 1,459.21
Total Expenditures:	\$ 138.90	\$ 638.72

## Receipts Derived From:

Members Dues:	\$ -	\$ 740.00
Fifty/Fifty	\$ -	\$ 42.00
Donation (KI4NBU & N1HJ)	\$ -	\$ 630.00
Veteran's Radio Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Field Day Radio Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Interest (Savings)	\$ 0.38	\$ 0.77
smile.amazon.com	\$ -	\$ 46.44
Total	\$ 0.38	\$ 1,459.21

## Expenditures:

American Red Cross:	\$ -	\$ -
Fifty-Fifty	\$ -	\$ -
ARRL Insurance	\$ -	\$ -
Spagetti 100 - TARC	\$ -	\$ -
TARS & Feathers Plaque	\$ -	\$ -
Storage & Supplies	\$ -	\$ 284.57
Field Day	\$ -	\$ -
VE Expenses	\$ -	\$ -

Tower/Repeater Maintenance	AG4UU \$	138.90	\$	138.90
Florida Dept of State	\$	-	\$	61.25
Post Office Box:	\$	-	\$	154.00
Total:	\$	138.90	\$	638.72

**Transfer Checking -> Savings:**

**Ending Balances - Apr 22, 2020:**

Cash on hand	\$	-	\$	-
Checking Account	\$	3,507.92	\$	3,507.92
Savings Account	\$	3,102.29	\$	3,102.29
Total	\$	6,610.21	\$	6,610.21

\*Veteran's Radio Fund \$ 500.00

\*Field Day Radio Fund \$ 697.00

## Ham Happenings

August 2020 DX

It is possible that some of the listing stations have canceled their plans due to the Corona virus

From To	Prefix	Call, () is the IOTA designation
01-Aug	???	5T 5T5PA
01-Aug	???	5Z 5Z4/PA1TS
01-Aug	???	6O 6O1OO
01-Aug	11-Aug	9M2 9M2STAYHOME
01-Aug	1-Jan	CE9 8J1RL (AN-015)
01-Aug	29-Aug	DU DZ30SH
01-Aug	8-Aug	G GB100RS
01-Aug	1-Mar	KG4 KG4MA
01-Aug	15-Aug	LA LN1V (EU-055)
01-Aug	1-Sep	OH OH1TD (EU-096)
01-Aug	31-Aug	SP SN87LOT
01-Aug	???	T6 T6AA
01-Aug	31-Aug	VK VI250COOK
01-Aug	14-Aug	VU AT0II
01-Aug	18-Aug	VU AT2ABC
01-Aug	23-Sep	VU AT2ARA
01-Aug	4-Sep	VU AT2ATT
01-Aug	18-Aug	VU AT2BB
01-Aug	4-Sep	VU AT2BCC
01-Aug	31-Aug	VU AT2DN
01-Aug	19-Aug	VU AT2SAH
01-Aug	14-Aug	VU AT2SFF
01-Aug	4-Sep	VU AT2SFU
01-Aug	14-Aug	VU AU2CVD
01-Aug	9-Sep	VU AU2FC
01-Aug	20-Aug	VU AU9VV
01-Aug	1-Aug	I I0ICEH

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

## Contesting

Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ

With the dog days of summer upon us, many radio amateurs are foregoing outdoor activities and are finding more time to devote to their hobby in the cool air conditioning. 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.

August is a fairly busy month for contesting, with at least one activity every weekend. There are four major contests this month. There are a three DX contests and three State QSO Parties. WA7BNM Contest Calendar lists 90 RadioSport activities for August 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 August Weekends

#### August 1-2

August starts off with the summer edition of the **North American QSO Party, CW**. The NAQP series of contests always pack the bands. Their popularity can be partly attributed to the 100 watt power limit. This allows the little pistols to compete head to head with the big guns. The exchange is name and state. Multipliers are the states and provinces. If you are entering single-operator in this contest, you are not allowed any type of spotting information. You can enter multi-2 if you'd like to use spots.

This is the first year for the **Batavia FT8 Contest**. If you have nothing else to do or you have come to enjoy FT8, check out this 48-hour digital contest. For a lesson in geography and history, Batavia was the capital of the Dutch East Indies and is now known as Jakarta, Indonesia.

#### August 8-9

The **Worked All Europe (WAE) DX Contest, CW** 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.

The **Slovenia Contest Club (SCC) RTTY Championship**, originally scheduled every year since 1998 on the second weekend of August, has been listed as “Inactive.”

State QSO Party (SQP) enthusiasts will rejoice for the return from summer break of the first SQP of the second half of the year. Participants in the **Maryland-DC QSO Party** will be able to use most modes (SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK31, FT8 & FT4). Please consult the rules to determine your operating category (e.g. Club, Rover, Unusual, Standard, etc.) and your exchange (probably “Standard Florida”). The MD-DC SQP is approved for the State QSO Party Challenge.

### **August 15-16**

All ears this weekend will be tuned for the very popular **North American QSO Party (NAQP), SSB**. Just like its CW cousin two weeks ago, the NAQP SSSB will have door-to-door pileups for the entire 12 hours. The exchange will be name and state. States and provinces serve as multipliers. The playing field is leveled with power limited to 100 watts.

The **SARTG (Scandinavian Amateur Radio Group) Worldwide RTTY Contest** runs for three separate 8-hour periods this weekend. The multipliers are each DXCC entity, plus each call are in VK, VE, JA and W. The exchange is signal strength and a 1-up serial number.

### **August 22-23**

There are two state QSO parties this weekend. The **Hawaii QSO Party** is a two-day affair for all modes. Multipliers are the 14 Hawaiian districts. The exchange is signal report and state.

The second state QSO party this weekend is the **Ohio State QSO Party**. The multipliers are the 88 Ohio counties. The exchange is signal report and state.

## **August 29-30**

The last weekend of August is quite busy with two DX contests and a state QSO Party. The **World Wide Digi DX Contest** is a collaboration between the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF) and the Slovenia Contest Club (SCC). Amateurs around the world will contact as many other amateurs in as many Maidenhead Grid Fields as possible using the FT4 and FT8 modes.

The **YO DX HF Contest** is your standard DX contest format. Everyone works everyone, but special multipliers are for working Romanian (YO) stations. The exchange is signal report and serial number.

The **Kansas QSO Party** is one of the more enjoyable SQPs. Kansas usually has a good turnout of in-state stations. Mobiles are allowed to straddle county lines, giving multiple multipliers at once. Kansas QSO Party Certificates and Antique Radio Stamps are awarded for spelling KANSAS, SUNFLOWER, QSOPARTY or YELLOWBRICKROAD using suffixes of selected 1x1 calls. A number of additional awards are available including T-shirts, sweatshirts and plaques. The exchange is signal report and state. Their special FT8 category was a success the last two years and will continue in 2020. There is a one-time bonus of 100 points for contacting KS0KS.



## 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.

Send any questions that you have about contesting to [K4SBZ.Stan@gmail.com](mailto:K4SBZ.Stan@gmail.com)

## Summary

Contest	Type	Date	Time	CW	SSB	RTTY	Other Digital
North American QSO Party, CW	Major	1-Aug	1800Z	C			
WAE DX Contest, CW	Major	8-Aug	0000Z	C			
Maryland-DC QSO Party	QSO	8-Aug	1600Z	C	S	R	
SARTG WW RTTY Contest	DX	15-Aug	0000Z			R	
North American QSO Party, SSB	Major	15-Aug	1800Z		S		
Hawaii QSO Party	QSO	22-Aug	0400Z	C	S	R	D
Ohio QSO Party	QSO	22-Aug	1600Z	C	S		
WW Digi DX Contest	Major	29-Aug	1200Z				D
YO DX HF Contest	DX	29-Aug	1200Z	C	S		
Kansas QSO Party	QSO	29-Aug	1400Z	C	S	R	D

## **Hurricane Season Gets an Early Start**

As I write this, in the Atlantic Ocean a tropical depression threatens to develop into the Tropical Storm Isaias. Making matters more tense, the track has it moving off the west coast of Florida by Sunday, making inland around the St. Marks area. As of now, Tropical Storm 9 is only that, and it is projected to remain so at least until next Monday or Tuesday, which is good news, of sorts.

Although hurricane season officially begins on June 1 the dangerous part typically does not start until the middle of August and run for about six weeks to two months. Then the winds blowing off the African continent mix with those in the Atlantic to form some monster storms that yearly threaten the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of the United States. Florida, of course, has a bullseye painted across the state, and with remarkable accuracy one or two storms each year manage to hit some part of it. Witness Hurricanes Michael in 2018 and Dorian last year.

Now, whether global warming has anything to do with the 2020 season, the undeniable fact is that we have seen an unusually active hurricane season develop unusually early and continue through the normally quiet month of July. For the amateur radio community in Florida generally and the Big Bend in particular this means we now need to check our equipment and prepare for the worst-while, of course, hoping for the best. Hence, now is the time to double check our generators, make sure our batteries are charged, and our radios work. Also, this is also the time when we need to consider how we can help our communities and state prepare for and meet anything mother nature might toss at us. Of course, taking care of ourselves, our families, and our property takes precedence, but once those vital concerns have been satisfied, you may want to consider how you can help.

If you have the desire to help, here are some areas that have a recurring need, particularly as a storm comes our way

1. Served agencies. Typically the American Red Cross has needs for hams, as do the county and state Emergency Operations Centers.
2. The National Weather Service is always interested in weather reports, as well as information regarding flooding, downed power lines, or fallen trees. Radio

communications with NWS will be established, so reports can be fed to it over the local repeaters.

3. ARES nets. The Northern Florida ARES net and the Northern Florida Phone net will combine to form the Northern Florida Emergency net when activated by the Section Manager. The net frequency is 3.950 MHz with an alternate frequency of 7.242 MHz. Net participation by simply checking in is appreciated. If you would to serve as a Net Control Station you will be knighted and raised to sainthood. There is a persistent need for NCS, so if you can serve as one please volunteer.

4. State Emergency Operations Center. There is also a special need for operators at the State Emergency Operations Center. This is a high profile assignment. If you are interested in serving a shift there, please contact Erik, KC4NVU, to let him know of your availability. You will need to be a general class operator because most of the communications done there involves HF frequencies.

5. Just listening. Of great, unsung importance are those hams who simply stay home and listen to the radio, whether it is 3.950 MHz, a local repeater, or the SAR net. Inevitably an unexpected need will arise, and it is often that ham who had not volunteered, who simply listened, that will at that moment of crisis be able to lend a listening ear or a helping hand to solve the problem and save the day.

If you have checked your batteries, told your Emergency Coordinator you can help, and are waiting for the “big one” to blow somewhere, here are some other things that you may consider:

1. The Hurricane Watch Net on 14.325 MHz activates when tropical storms and hurricanes threaten the Caribbean islands and the coast of the United States. It provides some fascinating listening as hams in the islands report on wind and rain conditions they are experiencing

2. To follow the track of the storm go to [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov). That site will provide the latest, most accurate information about the storm, its track, and windspeeds.

So, the season is picking up. Since last hurricane season we have spent every Sunday evenings with Dave, W4SKG's training net, getting ready. We have had exercises to test our HF and VHF capabilities. We are prepared. Now we get to see if all that training and preparation will pay off.

Dave WA4WES

Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator

Northern Florida Section



## **TARS Officers**

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

## **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**