



The TARC Reflector for April 2012

Hi Folks,

I think we're all trying to catch our breath following the last two weeks, with yet more to come in April. We actually had two Saturdays in a row off, due to moving regular events around a bit to accommodate a new event.



That new event was the Blue Line 100, a bike ride that supports fallen Law Officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. We met early on March 24th at Seminole Wind and after having a quick breakfast, we deployed to our positions.

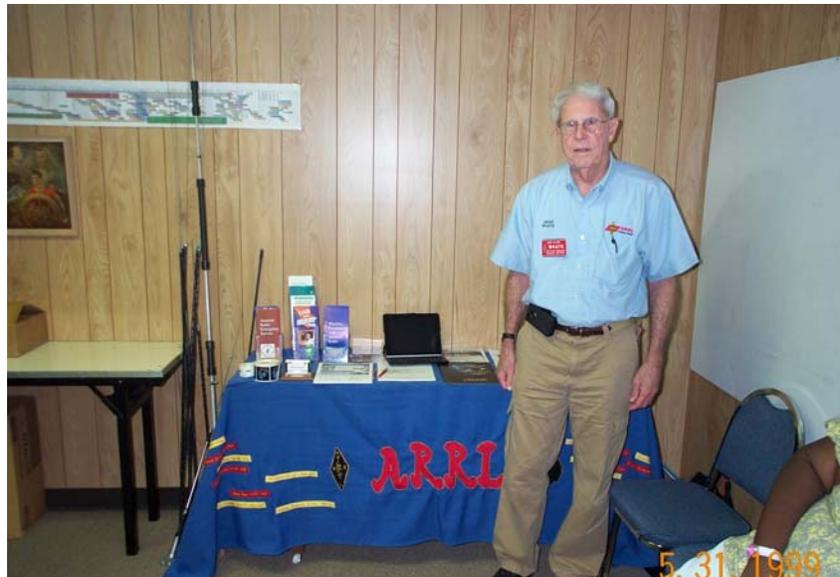
We had a brief problem, as the map we had was an older one, but being familiar with the correct route, we quickly issued new directions and things went right to work.

The weather also wasn't optimal, as there were a few showers right off the bat, and rain always presents a major problem by increasing the chance of a biker slipping down. Luckily, the number of riders was small (maybe a number stayed at home due to the weather forecast?), and there were no major incidents.

The people involved were: **KF4HSM, KJ4KUK, KJ4ZNK, KI4NBU, N1HJ, KA3FZO, KK4HYB, KK4DZB, N0TW, N4ETA, KJ4KUJ, KW4EF, N4KXL, Rudy (our mascot), WD4CJI, KJ4UKR, and KE4FGF.**

March 31st was another early day as we met at Morningside Methodist for the second annual TARC Tailgate Hamfest. A number of us met the day before to get as much of the event set up as we could, and with the new things we decided to try, it was a wise decision.

As you know, we tapped **Virgil, KJ4ZNK**, as our new Public Information Officer at the last meeting and he got us signed up as an official "ARRL Hamfest." That caused us to think about stepping things up a bit and we added a few things that we didn't do last year.



First, it added the ARRL booth, and **Gene, W4AYK** showed up bright and early to set up, and was happy to finally travel *south* for a hamfest, rather than north.

We also moved the monthly test session to the hamfest, and we had a number of folks show up for testing, two of which drove over from Dothan.



The main room was full of gear from two estates (KJ4SW and KI4TFL) as well as other exhibitors. As the weather was once again forecast to be wet, our outside area wasn't as large as last year, but did feature a husband and wife who came up from Orlando, and they get the prize for most distance covered to attend. I don't know how much they sold, but they left with a lot of stuff from inside.

Bill and Dawn set up concessions in the kitchen area and sold a number of hotdogs, chilidogs, chips and drinks. They also had doughnuts and coffee at the entrance that morning.

Theresa, KJ4N BG, also set up a great "Youth Lounge" for any kids who showed, though the weather also affected the attendance there as well.

Several of the out of town visitors commented favorably on the Equipment Test Area and said it was the first time they'd been able to check out a piece of used gear prior to buying it.

So, we had a good time, found some equipment a new home, and licensed and upgraded a few folks...and the important question is...what did it all cost?

Well, I'm happy to report that after counting up the money from concessions, and from the donation jar with the doughnuts, we paid for everything with about \$20 to spare. That includes **all** the food and drinks, the Youth Lounge projects, and the \$50 we pay the church for using the facility.

There is also money yet to be counted from table rental, and from the 50/50 split on the KS4JW gear that sold.

We also learned a few things for next year. Mainly, we need to solidify a date and stick to it. The final Saturday in March looks to be a good one. We were not in conflict with any other hamfest and that opens the door to adding new equipment vendors in the future. And, I'd say the future for this event does look promising. We got a lot of "air-play" on the HF nets and I saw one comment on the website encouraging everyone to support this and make it the "Dalton of South Georgia." Not having been to the Dalton Hamfest myself, I'm guessing it's a good one, and our friends in the communities around us really do want a quality hamfest without having to drive 3 or 4 hours to get there.

Are we up to pulling that off? If next year's event also goes well, I think we will be. We'll discuss it more at the meeting.

April is also busy, as we have TOSRV on the second Saturday, which is April 14th. You can contact Wynona or me if you can help. We need about 10-12 stations if possible, and we won't be moving around a lot due to the screamingly high price of gas. Please help if you can.

And finally, the Radio Reunion will be held in Tallahassee at the St. Francis of Assisi Church on Old Bainbridge road on the 28th. The main dish is barbecue chicken, and if you attend, you'll need to bring a side dish. The announcement, with all the particulars, is included with this newsletter.

The meeting will be on Saturday April 7th, and we'll be in Room 1 at the Plaza. Plan to arrive at 6pm for supper, and the meeting will take place at 7:30pm. As a number of our folks will be involved with Sunrise Services the next morning, I promise, we'll be as brief as possible.

I look forward to seeing YOU and your family there!

73,

Mike



The following members of our Radio Family have April Birthdays:

- Sherry Giddens – April 6**
- Eleanor Doering – April 8**
- Theresa James – April 10**
- Ken Lanter – April 14**
- Mary Saunders – April 16**
- Mark Swicord – April 17**
- Jeff Hearn – April 19**
- Josiah (Jo-Jo) Pitts – April 20**
- Curt Heath – April 28**
- John Swicord – April 30**

Don't see your birthday? Let us know at w4ucj@arrl.net

NØ Tenna Wizard

C U On the Bands

This will be my final "Tenna Wizard" article for the Thomasville Newsletter. In my past articles, I have tried to cover a lot of different subjects concerning towers,

wire and aluminum antennas, UHF VHF and HF antennas, beams, quads, loops, dipoles, long wires, verticals, feedlines, lightning protection, as well as grounding systems.

There are certainly a lot of different aspects to constructing and erecting antennas. This applies whether you purchase a commercial product or build one of your own from scratch.

I hope that you have all enjoyed reading my articles - while I realize that many of them are beyond what many of you need to operate your stations. I encourage all of you to continue to explore the many different kinds of antenna choices.

I will remain at your service with regards to answering any antenna or tower questions that you may have as we progress along this amateur radio pathway.

Thanks to all of you for the many years of encouragement.

73 & CU on the Air
Terry, N0TW



March Test Session results

With the TARC Tailgate Hamfest scheduled for this month, we elected to move the Test Session to that event.

Congratulations to the following people who showed up for new licenses and upgrades:

Andy Clark – KK4HYC – New Extra
Clarence Dukes – KF6DXT – New Extra
Arthur Burnley – New General
Jeff Bivens – New Tech

Jerry Folsom – New Tech
Tevin Gammage – New Tech
Alfonso Hawkins – New Tech
John Monds – New Tech

We also thank **Kerry, AI4CW, Gina, W4GNA, Theresa, KJ4NBG, Alan, N4KGT, and Mike, KE4FGF** for running the test session.

Our next Test Session will return to the Thomas County EOC at 10am on Saturday, April 21st.



Weather Center

The most common form of severe weather that we experience is in the form of high winds. Be it outflow from a squall line or bowing storm structure, rear flank down draft in a rare supercell, a micro down burst from a summer thunderstorm or a tropical event with sustained high winds, there are a number of different scenarios that can and often do result in storm damage. A thunderstorm with surface wind speeds of 58 mph or greater is classified as a severe thunderstorm.

A slide titled "Estimating Wind Speed" with a blue background. On the left, a list of wind speed ranges and their effects: 25-31 mph - large branches in motion; 32-38 mph - whole trees in motion; 39-54 mph - twigs break off, wind impedes walking; 55-72 mph - damage to chimneys and TV antennas, large branches broken and some trees uprooted; 73-112 mph - removes shingles, windows broken, trailer houses overturned, trees uprooted; 113+ mph - roofs torn off, weak buildings and trailer houses destroyed, large trees uprooted. On the right, a photograph of trees blowing in a storm with a bright light source in the sky. The photo is credited to "Copyright Mike Umscheid".

Wind Speed Range	Effects
25-31 mph	large branches in motion
32-38 mph	whole trees in motion
39-54 mph	twigs break off, wind impedes walking
55-72 mph	damage to chimneys and TV antennas, large branches broken and some trees uprooted
73-112 mph	removes shingles, windows broken, trailer houses overturned, trees uprooted
113+ mph	roofs torn off, weak buildings and trailer houses destroyed, large trees uprooted

Estimating the strength of these winds both during and after an event can be challenging especially if we factor in the excitement level we all experience in the heat of the battle. In spotter training this is referred to as the "SET" effect.

This is when **Stress, Excitement and Tension** are running high and may cloud our judgement and cause us to exaggerate our estimate unintentionally.

The most accurate means of collecting wind speed data is with the use of either a handheld or a fixed device called an anemometer. Many of the versions available will give both current wind speeds and peak wind gust measurements. Care should be used with handheld devices since their orientation in regards to the wind direction is key for their accuracy. It's a good idea to practice using them to gain a

good understanding of how they operate before that key moment arrives when you have to put your practice to work.

Most of us do not have an anemometer in our pockets all the time so how do we get a good estimate of the wind speed using just visual clues? On the right is a slide from the basic spotter training course that gives good guidelines that we can use to arrive at an estimate.

Post storm event damage reports are just as important as real time wind estimates obtained during the storm. In many cases this is the safest way to get this information as we spot from a safe distance and move in behind the storm to survey the damage. Using this chart we are able to correlate the type of damage we see with the strength of winds needed to create a given level of damage.

Think your estimates through, use the resources that we have available, and remember our primary objective as spotters is to relay accurate, timely reports in a professional manner. Building credibility with the National Weather Service regarding our reports comes from remembering and implementing these basic principles.

Stewart
KJ4GOJ
DEC NWS Tallahassee, FL
Georgia ARES

About the Georgia QSO Party

Please feel free to republish either in email or newsletter article for your club. If your group has planned activities for GQP, please let me know.

The Georgia QSO Party is a month away. Things are coming together nicely. We've added a couple links to the 2012 page to consolidate some of the information. Because we are trying to activate all 159 counties this year, we anxiously want to know what counties are planned to be worked either fixed or roving. Just send me an email.

For a map of counties that have reported coverage, just look at the GQP 2012 page and click on '..view the map'. You'll also find a link to who's working where. I try to keep this up every day or so, so if you aren't listed and sent me info, please send again.

The response from state groups has been great. In the Atlanta area we have two clubs setting up stations in public locations for other hams and friends to come operate or just watch the contest. This should be great practice for Field Day. GARS, www.gars.org and Atlanta Radio Club, w4doc.org for more info on these setups.

I've added a **GeorgiaQSOParty** facebook group that we might use for posting during the contest. I'm also looking at other methods of alerting where the rovers might be during the contest.

<http://georgiaqsoparty.org>

Info Flyer <http://georgiaqsoparty.org/pdfs/GQPFLyer2012.pdf>

Hand Out 2 per page http://adatab.net/Georgia_QSO_Party.pdf

For more information, please contact the
Georgia QSO Party Coordinator for 2012:
Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV
norman@schklar.com



THE SUWANNEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
SUWANNEE COUNTY FLORIDA

THE FIRST ANNUAL SUWANNEE TAILGATE EVENT

APRIL 21, 2012
7am SETUP 8am PUBLIC
AT THE FLORIDA STATE FARMERS
MARKET
2758 COUNTY ROAD 136
WHITE SPRINGS FLORIDA 32096

TALK IN 145.270 tone 123

**EXIT 439 ON I-75 GO EAST AND FOLLOW SIGNS
JUST 3 MILES NORTH OF I-10 ON I-75
ONLY 11 MILES NORTH OF LAKE CITY**

**BRING ALL YOUR QUALITY and JUNK HAM RADIO
RELATED ITEMS**

***\$5 TAILGATE FEE * FREE PUBLIC ADMISSION**

***HAM RADIO DEMOSTRATIONS**

***ARRL-affiliated event**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

DALE K4HVR K4HVR@windstream.net JACK KJ4NXD KJ4NXD@arrl.net

This event is for the enhancement of emergency communication

Grady County, Georgia ARES newsletter for first quarter 2012

Good Afternoon!

Please find attached the Grady County, Georgia ARES newsletter for first quarter 2012.

We appreciate all of our members who work diligently in Grady, and surrounding, counties, and all of the County, State, and Federal Officials who help make ARES and Skywarn successful!

73

KJ4ZNK - Virgil

<http://kj4znk.blogspot.com>

<http://grady-ga-ares.blogspot.com/>

TARC Meeting Minutes for 3/03/12

1) Welcome and Announcements:

- a) **The Test Session is being moved to the Tailgate on March 31st. The time for the test will still be 10:00am.**
- b) **Midmonth Breakfast will be on the 24th at 7am, before the Blueline-100 begins.**
- c) **The Yard Sale is cancelled. Terry is having a medical procedure so Wynona is too busy to handle this and would like for it to be moved to another date at a later time.**
- d) **The Rag-chew Breakfast is every Friday at 8:30am at Seminole Wind. This is still a well-attended event.**
- e) **Joe is doing much better right now. He is getting up out of the wheel chair on his own so all is looking much better. Billy Joe has taken a spill and has broken several ribs and is in much pain. Jean, Sherry's mom, has been in a coma for the last couple of days and is not doing well. Please keep all of these people in your prayers.**

2) Minutes and Treasurer's Reports were accepted as read.

3) Old Business:

- a) **The classes went very well and were crowded both Saturdays. In all, 19 people passed their tests and upgraded. Congratulations to all who passed their tests, and thanks to the people who helped out with this event.**
- b) **The Kid's Net is an ongoing success. Christopher Welsh, from Tallahassee, started as a third party check-in using his parent's call sign and now has his own call sign, KK4GVV. The Kids Net started back in January and the intent was to help the kids become more comfortable and help alleviate "mic-shyness." The net now lasts almost an hour with much information being discussed.**
- c) **Radio Reunion- Sal, K4YFW, announced that it is Tallahassee's turn to host the Radio Reunion. It will be April 28th, and TARS will provide the main dish, Barbecue Chicken, and drinks. Time is still being decided, and the location is St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church on Old Bainbridge Road.**

4) New Business:

- a) **Blueline-100 – March 24th. The bike ride is for fallen Law Officers. The club decided to postpone the Tailgate Hamfest for a week and**

help with this event. The Midmonth Breakfast will move to this date at 7am at Seminole Wind and we'll deploy from there.

- b) Tailgate – March 31st. The event will be at Morningside Methodist and will start at 7am. The monthly test session will move to this event and will be at 10am.**
- c) Website discussion- Lowell led this discussion and wants to change the club website from his personal account to something that it under club ownership in case something were to happen to him. He'll check into what all needs to be changed.**
- d) New Club PIO – Lowell also indicated that it would be a good idea for the club to have a Public Information Officer to help shoulder the burden of getting all pertinent information of club events out to the public. He nominated Virgil, KJ4ZNK. KJ4UKR seconded, and all voted yes with no exceptions.**

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 with 31 members present.

**Respectfully submitted,
Dana Swicord, Secretary**

Buddy's Rambling

I would like to thank Terry for all his hard work on the NØ Tenna Wizard column. I know it takes a lot of work and time. I have the easy part just putting letter together from the articles sent to me. Thanks for all you do for the club and members.

I have also included a link to Grady County, Georgia ARES newsletter

Thanks to everyone's help with the tailgate party

Buddy

2012 Radio Reunion

April 28, 2012 • 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM
St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
3413 Old Bainbridge Rd., Tallahassee, FL
Talk-In Frequency: 147.030 MHz

The Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society (TARS) is honored to host the 2012 Radio Reunion.

- Licensed amateur radio operators and their families are invited to attend.
- TARS will provide barbequed chicken and drinks (ice tea, sodas, water).
- It is requested that each person (or their family) bring one dish that will feed 4 people (vegetables, salads, and deserts).
- There will be surprise entertainment for young and old alike.
- TARS will solicit donations to cover expenses for this event.

Disaster Preparedness – It's Not Magic!

Mr. Carl Morgan, Project Manager
Leon County Emergency Management
and

Lt. William Fair

Leon County Sheriff's Department

Mr. Morgan and Lt. Fair will provide an overview of the proposed joint communication center for Leon County.

Driving Directions: From I-10, exit #199 to North Monroe Street (SR 27), turn right heading north to Fred George Road, turn left to Old Bainbridge Road, turn left going south on Old Bainbridge to St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church.



When Christ was on earth, the dogwood grew,
to a towering size with a lovely hue.
Its branches were strong and interwoven
And for Christ's cross its timbers were chosen

Being distressed at the use of the wood
Christ made a promise which still holds good:
"Not ever again shall the dogwood grow
To be large enough for a tree, and so

Slender and twisted it shall always be
With cross-shaped blossoms for all to see.
The petals shall have bloodstains marked brown
and in the blossom's center a thorny crown.

All who see it will think of Me,
Nailed to a cross from a dogwood tree.
Protected and cherished this tree shall be
A reflection to all of My agony."

We wish you all a Blessed Easter!