



The TARC Reflector for March 2012

Hi Folks,

Getting started a little slow this time around. It's been a hectic two weeks with the classes, but while the Instructors and support crew are a bit out of breath; we did a LOT of good.

Day-1 found us in "new digs" as our regular classrooms were being used by the hospital. I didn't get to see the General and Extra classes, but can tell you that the Tech Class was unbelievably full. While I'll detail them out in a later article, we had two new Techs, three new Generals, and a new Extra when the smoke cleared.

Day-2 found us back where we were supposed to be, and again, there were a lot of people in attendance. Each class had additional people who couldn't make the first day, and some couldn't make it back.

The test session that followed was busy, and Bobby commented that we looked like an "FCC Office" with all the paperwork in process. When the final count came out, we added six more new Techs, three Generals and four Extras.

In particular, **Andy Clark** was a Tech for about 15 minutes and decided he wanted to try the General...guess what? He made it! Andy is the Electronics Technology Instructor at the Technical School in Moultrie. He also brought several students along, and several left with their Tech licenses too.

It was also the first outing for new Instructors **Jackson, KJ4NFB**, and **Mary, KI4JOO**, and they did a great job. **Jeff, KK4APP** and **Theresa, KJ4NBN** will also join us, at the next class sessions as they have indicated interest in becoming Instructors. They will be welcome additions to that group, as we can always use a few more hands to help.

Thanks to all our Instructors and “Support Crew” for a job well done. John did a yeoman’s job in getting us alternate classrooms when our regular rooms were unavailable on Day-1. He and Dana also made sure the refreshment table stayed well stocked on Day-2, with Dana adding a cake and some really great (and short lived) cheese biscuits.

By the way, even after 6-dozen doughnuts, 12 pizzas, cookies and soft drinks, the “Donation Jar” paid for everything with no cash outlay from the club treasury. From those numbers alone, you can see we had a LOT of people involved with the classes.

For March, we’ll be busy again, but not as bad as it could have been. **Terry, KF4CLE**, will be having a medical procedure on the week before the scheduled time for the Yard Sale, and Wynona has asked to postpone it until later, probably April or May. The officers agreed that this would be best, in light of all the other events.

We’ve been asked to participate in the Blueline–100 Bike Race on March 24th, and we’ll discuss our participation in this event Saturday Night. This event raises funds for the national memorial honoring police officers that lost their lives in the line of duty.

The participants are all Police Officers and come from all over the country to participate.



“We ride for those who died”

We haven’t participated before as this event usually stays south of the line, and until this year, took place on Sunday, which limited involvement due to church activities. Should we decide to participate, we’ll move the midmonth breakfast to that day, and deploy from Seminole Wind. It follows the Spaghetti 100 route this year, so you already are familiar with the route.

The TARC Tailgate will take place on the 31st at Morningside Methodist, and we'll discuss what time to get underway on Saturday night. In addition to the gear to be sold, we'll have the monthly test session that day, to add some growth to the event.



It was a well-attended event last year and we hope to see a lot more people involved this time. If you have gear you need to part with, this is your chance to get it out there.

This is a free event for all concerned, whether you're a buyer or seller. With all the new licenses and upgrades from the past two weekends, I'm hopeful we'll see a lot of folks in attendance.

The March meeting will take place at the Plaza on March 3rd, and as you can see, we have a lot to discuss. I hope you'll make plans to be there. As usual, plan to arrive at 6pm for supper, and the meeting will follow at 7:30.

I look forward to seeing YOU and your family there!

Mike



The following members of our Radio Family have March birthdays!

Lowell Rieger – March 18th
Rachel Swicord – March 24th
Carolyn Peeples – March 25th
Lawrence McCuthin – March 30th
Tyler Hearn – March 30th
Joe Carroll – March 31st

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



Kid's Net adds a new licensee!

Congratulations to Christopher "CW" Welsh, KK4GVV on his new call. Christopher is a 'Plank Member" of the TARC Kid's Net, and is the son of Steve and Tersha Welsh (AD4E and K4HIM) of Tallahassee. Christopher's younger sister, Hope, is also a Kid's Net member.

NØ-Tenna Wizard

75 Meter Current-Fed T Vertical

DXers for 75 meters know that one of the best antennas for this band is the vertical. A quarter wave vertical for 75 meters is 65 ft tall, a difficult mechanical structure to erect. Is there a way to construct a shorter vertical without sacrificing too much efficiency? Yes.

The antenna described in this article is only 40 ft tall, a more manageable height that can be suspended from a tree limb without too much trouble.

The effects of the Earth, and its associated ground pattern on vertically polarized antennas are often misunderstood. You will need a good ground system to make this antenna perform correctly. Here in the sandy soil of the south, you should use no less than 16 quarter-wavelength radials with this antenna. They need not be buried and can lay right on top of the soil. Use metal U-shaped wires to pin the radials to the ground and you can mow right over them.

The antenna is 40 ft tall and has a 37-ft, 2-inch top-hat wire with the center of the top hat connected to the top of the vertical piece of wire. The top hat acts as top loading, which is the most efficient method for loading a vertical antenna. The top-hat (horizontal wire) adds on the missing 25 ft of this antenna's height from the 65 ft that it should be to resonate on 75m.

You can expect the Radiation Resistance of this antenna to be in the neighborhood of 25 ohms. The more radials you use, the more efficient it becomes. The radials need not be large diameter wire. #28 wire is more than sufficient. If you solder the radials to the ground connection of the feed line, be sure to weatherproof the connection with liquid rubber or liquid tape to keep the solder from deteriorating.

75-meter DX is a challenge. It takes more patience to work 100 countries on 75 meters or 160 meters than the higher frequency bands. However, hams are noted for tackling a good challenge. Try Top Band (160 meters) or 75 meters DX and you will enjoy it. You will find it to be another exciting aspect of ham radio.

**73 & CU on the Air
Terry, N0TW**



TARC Upgrade Class Results

The first TARC Upgrade Classes of 2012 had a lot of participation and produced excellent results, with a number of students either getting a new license or upgrading the one they already had. The results are:

Day-1

**Marilyn Webb – New Tech
Craig Nalls – New Tech
Alan Slaughter, KG4GAV – New General
Robbie Pitts, KK4FGM – New General
Junior Odum, KC4VPJ – New General
Eleanor Doering, N6BWQ – New Extra**

Day-2

**Todd Hornsby – New Tech
Matthew Thompson – New Tech
Charles Gaylor – New Tech
Richard Bochkay – New Tech
Sarah Anderson – New Tech
Leann Doering – New Tech
Brian Doering, KK4DZB – New General
Linda Gross, KA6SPS – New General
Andy Clark – New General
John Hanbury, KC4EMS – New Extra
Jimmie Anderson, W4FAO – New Extra
Jay Jordan, KJ4AFW – New Extra
Richard Schmitt, KJ4ZOC – New Extra**

Special thanks go to our Instructors, **Jackson, KJ4NFB, Mary, KI4JOO, Lowell, NY4D, Thomas, W4TBJ, Terry, N0TW, and Mike, KE4FGF**, for their efforts in teaching the classes. Thanks also to the VEs and support crew who makes sure these classes go so well.

The next TARC Test Session will be at the TARC Tailgate Hamfest at Morningside Methodist Church on March 31st, at 10am.

TARC Meeting Minutes for 2/04/12

- 1) Welcome and Announcements: Mike called the meeting to order at 7:30.**
 - a) The Test Session and Midmonth Breakfast are cancelled.**
 - b) The Orlando Hamfest will be Feb. 10-12.**
 - c) Rag-chew Breakfast every Friday 8:30am – Seminole Wind**
 - d) Statewide Tornado Drill – Feb. 8th - GAARES Net starts at 8:30am, and will run until all check-ins have been taken. If there is bad weather it will be moved until Friday.**

- e) **We lost Walt Hendricks and Maxine Black. Mike read a note that Arlene (Walt's wife) sent to the club. Dan also wanted to have a few words about the Veteran's award that he presented to Walt in our behalf.**

Program – Cubic Quad – Terry, N0TW

The unit is made with dowels and duct tape. Terry has no more than \$5.00 in it. The wire is made out of house wire. The quad was given away as a door prize to Walter, N1QJ

- 2) **Minutes and Treasurer's Reports were accepted as posted.**
- 3) **Old Business:**
 - a) **2011 Vet of the Year – presented to Walt by Dan. Walt was very pleased with this and we are very glad that we decided to take it to him at home.**
 - b) **Kid's Net – ongoing success - Tommy is doing a great job with this. Mike said he had hoped that the Net would help the kids get over being shy on the air, and that Tommy was really helping them work through it.**
- 4) **New Business:**
 - a) **147.195 repeater update. The repeater is holding its on. John has not had a chance to monitor it but others said that it has still has a few problems but overall it is doing okay. This is an ongoing project.**
 - b) **Terry, N0TW, acquired 2 full rack GE Master II repeaters for the club. The first project with the repeaters it to get one built out to be the 147.24 machine in Boston. Terry was reimbursed for his gas to pick these machines up.**
 - c) **Classes on February 18th and 25th. KI4JOO, and KJ4NFB are new Instructors - Study Manual orders need to be placed with Mike by Monday, February 6th. The number of students taking part in the classes continues to grow.**
 - d) **The date for the TARC Tailgate and Yard Sale is March 24th, starting at 7am. Mike indicated that Arlene Hendricks had approached him about selling Walt's gear, and it will be on display, as well as the items left over from the estate of KS4JW.**

- e) **The Archbold After Action Report for the Emergency Drill on Oct. 27th, 2011, was presented by John, KE4RWR, and he read a couple of comments that concerned us from the report. It stated numerous times that the ham operators did an excellent job during the drill. Theresa also received an email from Colquitt Regional Medical Center that funds for that radio station were finally coming through, so we may soon have another Hospital station on the air.**

- f) **The Georgia QSO party is April 14th and 15th. Mike wanted to participate in this event with a kid's station but the date conflicts with TOSRV and we can't do both. As Tommy may possibly ride in the TOSRV event, we need to be there to support him.**

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35pm, with 39 members and 2 visitors present.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Dana Swicord, Secretary**



Weather Center

The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) issues severe weather outlooks to provide awareness for the potential of severe weather in a given time period. Let's take a few minutes to review each of these and guidelines used for their issuance.

There are three categories used to define the forecast level of severe weather which are labeled as Slight, Moderate and High Risk. This level is set by the forecasted probability for a given time period. The time periods used by the SPC are Day 1, Day 2, Day 3 and Days 4-8.

Day 1 outlooks will contain graphics for each type of severe weather hazard (tornado, hail, and extreme wind damage) and they define the percent chance a severe weather event will occur within 25 miles of any given point. The outlook probabilities for Day 2, Day 3 and Days 4-8 combined all severe hazards together.

The following tables, provided by the SPC show the probability required for a given categorical outlook to be issued.

Day 1 Probability to Categorical Outlook Conversion

(SIGNIFICANT SEVERE area needed where denoted by hatching - otherwise default to next lower category)

Outlook Probability	TORN	WIND	HAIL
2%	SEE TEXT	NOT USED	NOT USED
5%	SLGT	SEE TEXT	SEE TEXT
10%	SLGT	NOT USED	NOT USED
15%	MDT	SLGT	SLGT
30%	HIGH	SLGT	SLGT
45%	HIGH	MDT	MDT
60%	HIGH	HIGH	MDT

Day 2 Probability to Categorical Outlook Conversion

(SIGNIFICANT SEVERE area needed where denoted by hatching - otherwise default to next lower category)

Outlook Probability	Combined TORN, WIND, and HAIL
5%	SEE TEXT
15%	SLGT
30%	SLGT
45%	MDT
60%	HIGH

Day 3 Probability to Categorical Outlook Conversion

(SIGNIFICANT SEVERE area needed where denoted by hatching - otherwise default to next lower category)

Outlook Probability	Combined TORN, WIND, and HAIL
5%	SEE TEXT
15%	SLGT
30%	SLGT
45%	MDT

Outlooks for Days 4-8 require a minimum of 30% probability for a severe outlook to be issued.

The severe weather season started in February and we have experienced several events already this year with WX4TAE activations. It is important to have a good understanding of the tools used by those responsible for forecasting severe weather.

In most cases the Storm Prediction Center combined with our local National Weather Service Forecast Office provide us with ample lead time to be prepared to assist with severe weather events.

Those of us who participate in ARES or have spotter training should look at these outlooks on a routine bases. However, this is not always possible and for this reason we

created our blog site at www.swgaskywarn.blogspot.com and we send emails with outlooks and general information about each event. The primary recipients of emails are the EC's of the Southwest Georgia District in hopes they will advise individuals in their counties in order to have spotter networks ready to activate if needed.

The emails are not limited to ARES officials and others have requested to receive them as well. Feel free to contact me at kj4goj@arrl.net if you want to be added or consider joining the Yahoo group put together by Dave Barton, AI4GF, at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/algaf1_weather/join Dave and I moderate this group and it is intended for anyone involved in storm spotting in the NWS Tallahassee forecast area. You can receive updates on pending severe weather, briefing packets from the NWS Tallahassee as well as notices on WX4TAE activations using this tool.

Ground truth reports play a vital part in the overall success of the National Weather Service warning system. What good does it do to activate WX4TAE without a network of spotters ready to relay severe weather reports? As we continue to work together to maximize the effectiveness of this important program please let me know of any suggestions you may have to improve our job of getting the information to you!

73's,
Stewart
KJ4GOJ
DEC NWS Tallahassee, FL
Southwest Georgia District ARES



Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunters Coming to Tallahassee



The National Weather Service in Tallahassee and the National Hurricane Center are pleased to announce the arrival of the 53rd Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunter Squadron to the Tallahassee Regional Airport on May 3rd. The Hurricane Hunter plane will be open for public tours during this event.

In addition to tours of the aircraft, visitors will get to meet with the National Hurricane Center Director, hurricane specialists, and see exciting displays related to meteorology and hurricane preparedness at the day-long event.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

When: Thursday, May 3rd, 2012

Where: Tallahassee Regional Airport

Who: Everyone! Take advantage of this unique opportunity to tour the hurricane hunter plane and interact with the crew!



For more information: Contact the National Weather Service in Tallahassee at 850-942-8833 or email Kelly.Godsey@noaa.gov or Jeffry.Evans@noaa.gov

For more information about the Hurricane Hunters visit:

<http://www.403wg.afrc.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=7483>

Here are just some of the events planned throughout the day:

- Tours of the hurricane hunter plane
- Tours of emergency management support vehicles
- Exhibits on physical science and meteorology as well as scientific experiments
- Weather balloon launches
- Many more exhibits are planned! Make sure to save the date and join us for this exciting event!



In Memoriam – Woody Hassler, KD4MOA

I got some sad news a few days ago; a longtime friend of mine, **Woody, KD4MOA**, had lost his fight while trying to recover from a major stroke.

Woody hasn't been active in a while, so some of you may not remember him, but indulge me for a few minutes if you will.

Strangely enough, Woody and I met over “an old guy on a bike.”

I'd been licensed for about a year, and was participating in my first Spaghetti 100, and though I didn't realize it at the time, the position called “Tail-End Charlie,” the person who follows the last rider, usually falls to the “new guy.”

Woody, though not as new as I was, was manning that station for TARS and we were watching an older male bike rider and two women, who were just slightly ahead of him.

After “leap-frogging” the riders a few times, Woody stopped and introduced himself. We hit it off right away and agreed to stay with the riders, though the Net Control said we could leave.

Despite the slow progress (the S-100 gets very difficult at the end due to the hills) we remained at our posts. After closing the final rest stop, Woody walked over and said that the old guy had shared a secret with him...he was about a month into recuperation from heart bypass surgery!!

We stayed at our posts until the guy made it in, though we were too late for spaghetti...figures doesn't it?

Woody was pretty active for a few years and it was normal to hear him and his friend John, whose callsign was KD4MOB, check in on the Sunday night ARES Net together.

I don't know what happened, but I lost track of him for a while, and then out of the blue, I bumped into him at a gun show in Tallahassee. He'd been having some health

problems, particularly with his hips, but that didn't stop him from walking and looking at the knives and guns, which were also one of his loves.

I saw him here and there for a few years, and again lost track. Then about a year back, I got an email from someone using the email "Flagacracker." Took me a few minutes to realize that stood for "Florida-Georgia Cracker" which was the way he thought of himself.

He indicated he was now at home on disability, and didn't get out much anymore. Though he wasn't active on the radio anymore, I added him to the club newsletter list and he really appreciated it. I'd hoped he might make one of our events, but travel was apparently difficult for him, and that precluded him visiting any of our events.

I was shocked to receive the email from his wife, Michelle that she'd come home from work to find Woody lying on the floor, unconscious. He was in the hospital in Tallahassee in the ICU, but remained unresponsive. She'd sent the email to all his friends asking for us to pray for Woody's recovery.

I sent a copy of that to all our members.

About a week later, she sent an email to me to let me know that Woody had lost the battle. I don't know if he ever woke up, but as he hung on for a while, I was hopeful that he might.

Her email ended with the request that all of his "ham family" would show up for a celebration of his life on Saturday, March 3rd.

I'm going to that celebration. He was a great friend, and we both were dedicated to making sure the last person made it home safely, and I'm going to follow through with that one more time...I owe him that...

We'll all miss you Woody...

de KE4FGF