



The July monthly meeting will be held in the Claude Pepper Building (3rd floor), which is at the corner of Duval and Gaines Street. Social begins at 7:00 p.m. with the meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. Call on .655 if you get lost or have any trouble entering the building. (See map page 7.)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

David Heupel, KG4ACF
TARS President

This is my first President's Corner column, and let me say I am delighted to be writing it. I will do everything in my power to make TARS an exciting and entertaining organization over the next twelve months, and hope to earn your confidence and respect. For many reasons, I am very excited to be your President for the year 2000-2001.

First, this year should prove to be an exciting time for Amateur Radio. Solar Cycle #23 is really beginning to "heat up," with solar flux indices regularly showing numbers above 150 on a daily basis, and 28-day cycle peaks approaching 300. HF enthusiasts should be having a great time now and in the coming months as Cycle #23 reaches its peak. Six meters has been showing excellent promise as of late, with frequent band openings into South America, and openings into the western US are now

appearing. I even heard that recently some six-meter enthusiasts around the country (even locally) have worked European stations on multi-hop E-skip paths! I suspect more such openings will occur in the Florida Big Bend area as we approach the summer solstice. Coming soon is the scheduled launch of the Phase 3D satellite later this year. Chasing DX on VHF should become a more common occurrence, and I understand that you should be able to work Phase 3D with an HT and rubber duckie antenna! Now if those pesky geomagnetic storms and solar flares would just go away...

Additionally, the new products for release this year, especially Kenwood's new rig, should blow everyone's mind! Let me tell you, that Kenwood rig is a work of art. I got a chance to see it when I was in Dayton in May, and Kenwood did their homework on this transceiver. Kenwood has not released a model number or pricing information, as the rig is not yet FCC Type-certified, but they hope to have it in production soon, and release it to market by October. At least that is what I heard at their booth. The rig sports continuous, all-mode, multi-band operation from 160 m - 70 cm **plus** 23 cm, is satellite ready, features expanded receive from 118 - 174 MHz and 220 - 512 MHz, built-in DSP, built-in HF/50 MHz auto-antenna Tuner, **and** has a built-in TNC for packet and APRS operation. Kenwood hopes to offer the product for under \$3000. Now, I might sound like a Kenwood marketing representative, but if you saw that rig in Dayton, you too would think it deserves a paragraph in the newsletter!

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Next, I am working with our new Vice-President, David Pienta (KG4DVW), and the ARRL to get some material for programs at club meetings. Our goal is to have an informative and entertaining program at every club meeting, including the picnics. I hope that this effort will increase attendance at our meetings, and perhaps even increase membership. It would really thrill me to see more of our friends joining up and coming to our meetings.

I will also be spearheading an effort to get more youth involved in our exciting hobby. In the coming months I will be in touch with essential persons at Leon High School, and other area schools to try to revive and/or set up Amateur Radio Clubs at the schools. We need to get more youth involved in our hobby to 1) keep it alive, 2) further develop the minds and focus of a great resource, and 3) maybe find some tower-climbers. It is expensive to pay a professional tower crew to run a cable or hang an antenna for us. If we can train some younger, more agile members to be safe tower-climbers, the entire club will benefit.

One other thing I would like to try to make happen are some fund-raising efforts for getting the club's treasury in a more solvent state. Since I became a TARS member in September of 1998, the year-end Treasurer's Report has shown rather small balances. We have cut things very close in recent years, and I fear the club's treasury could be depleted without an increase in membership and/or some fund-raising activities. I would really hate to see something like this happen, and I plan to do what I can to prevent this from happening. In the past we've discussed the "Pepsi-mobile" at Lowe's or Wal-Mart, and perhaps a car wash or two might be a viable way to raise some funds.

I also want to be here for you, the members of TARS. Remember that this is YOUR club - do not be afraid to take a personal "ownership interest" in the club. If you have ideas, suggestions, or agenda items for club meetings, activities, or programs, do not hesitate to get in touch with me. I want to help you, and help the club make good things happen this year. However, we need to work together to be successful. I realize that for many of you, Amateur Radio is only a hobby - but for some of us, it is also

a passion. I know sometimes it is hard, but try to make time for your club this year, because, as with anything in life - you only get out of it what you put into it.

Until next month - 73!

JUNE 2 MEETING MINUTES

Matt May, KC4WCG

42 members and 1 guest were in attendance. Minutes of May meeting moved into acceptance by NN5I and seconded by N4CE. Accepted by voice vote.

Committee reports:

Repeaters: Randy, KC4YWP, reported that the 147.030 and the 442.85 machines are operating as usual with the occasional drop out on the 2 meter machine which will be resolved once the .91 machine is back up and running. The 146.910 machine required a new power supply and additional tuning and adjustment of the remote receiver voter. Should be up in 2 weeks. Randy needs volunteers to help move a cabinet to the top of the Douglas building (the copper top) The 6 meter is very close as well with the new frequencies of 53.20 in and 53.70 out with 200 watts power out.

Education: Ivan, K4SRB, says the CW class is about half done and that there are several folks looking for General Class upgrade books based on the new question pool. There is a new version of "Now You're Talking" out for the Tech License. Applications for license upgrades submitted on the 25th of April were just being processed on June 1 due to the backlog of applications being sent in.

Testing: Alan, N4KGT, advised that the next testing session would be at Field Day and then again on July 11th (due to the testing day falling on the 4th).

Treasurer's report: NO REPORT, but he promised there would be one next month....

Field Day: David, KG4ACF, reminded us that the site this year is the San Luis digs off Mission Road just west of Ocala Road. Park in the regular parking lot and a golf cart will be dispatched for

pick up. Bring a handheld and give a call on 146.55 to get cart service. Check the web site (<http://www/k4tlh.org>) for the map of the site.

Election Committee: A slate of David, KG4ACF for President; Dave, KG4DVW for Vice President; Kent KC4TOC, Treasurer; Randy KD6UAN, Secretary was presented by Elizabeth, KD4VQQ, head of the nominations committee. The slate was accepted with no nominations from the floor. The vote was unanimous for the slate and elected as presented.

Other Business: John, KE4TCX, held the “dollar pot” drawing and John KG4GXT won but donated the pot of \$22 back to the club.

Program: A replay of the presentation that was on the Weather Channel with Kent, KC4TOC and Matt, KC4WCG helping to explain the Skywarn part of weather spotting. Also shown was the 20/20 show interviewing the hams who helped rescue the family off Honduras who had been attacked by sea pirates.

Old Business: None

New Business: Many thanks to those who helped with the Zorro hurricane exercise testing the communications links between the State, City, County EOC as well as the National Weather Service office at the airport. Simplex communications were tested successfully as well as through the local repeater system. Several served agencies were able to see our capabilities and asked for more information. Several operators participated in spite of the workday hours including KG4DVW, KE4TCX, WD4DSW, KC4TOC, KF4ROI, K4TPD, and KC4WCG.

Randy, KC4YWP, requested that \$125 be paid for the power supply for the 146.91 machine. The motion was moved and seconded that the money be reimbursed.

Kent, KC4TOC, gave a brief review of the Governor’s Hurricane Conference and pointed out that all agreed that the new West Central Florida Section will NOT run its own Hurricane drill and will participate with the state wide drill next year.

The Tallahassee Office of the National Weather Service needs people willing to take readings for a minimum/maximum temperature study. A thermometer will be provided and readings will need to be taken every day. Call the WX service for more info.

A motion was made to move the meeting place to the Pepper building on a permanent basis. Motion tabled until the new officers are in power, but the next meeting will be held in the Pepper building.

Field Day: David, KG4ACF, still needs station Captains for the Novice/Tech station and the VHF/UHF/SAT station. Randy, KD6UAN, will be prepping the computers and logging programs. Food will be provided by Chris, KO4DN, and prepared by Buck, KD4OPU.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

CARL'S QUIZ FOR JULY

By Carl Hayes, NN5I

This is a semi-monthly feature, which propounds upon a single question connected somehow with Amateur Radio, usually technical, procedural or historical in nature. Answers will appear the following month, along with a new question for your consideration.

APRIL’S QUESTION WAS: K4SCK comes on a repeater and proceeds as follows:

“K4SCK on the KD5BH repeater phone patch” (makes a patch call).

THE QUESTION: is K4SCK's procedure all it should be?

ANSWER: No. K4SCK has identified improperly. It is proper to give one's own call sign LAST, never the other station's. For instance, N5DRU from K4SCK” or “NN5I this is K4SCK” or “KD5BH, K4SCK” is correct, but “K4SCK to NN5I” marks K4SCK as a lid. In the example given in the question, K4SCK should have said something like “KD5BH repeater, K4SCK on the patch” or just given his own call sign. Giving KD5BH's call *last*

as he did, he apparently claimed his own call was KD5BH, which is not correct.

THE QUESTION FOR AUGUST: We all use the term CW to refer to radiotelegraphy using either the Morse or the Continental code. Every ham knows that CW stands for continuous waves. This seems to make little sense, for the waves we send out are anything but continuous: we break'em up into dits and dahs! So why do we call this kind of communication CW?

HIGH ALTITUDE PLATFORM STATIONS (HAPS)

(An ITU World Radio Conference took place from May 8 to June 2 in Istanbul Turkey. Conference results having an impact on amateur radio are reported at <http://www.rac.ca/wrc2000.htm>. The HAPS article below was reprinted from this site.)

At WRC 97, and again at WRC 2000, the topic of regulations and spectrum allocations for High Altitude Platform Stations (HAPS) was discussed. HAPS proponents propose communications platforms at heights of tens of kilometers, which remain stationary over large centres of population.

They operate like sophisticated repeaters, relaying messages between fixed and mobile users on the ground. Details of how the platforms would be maintained in position are sketchy. Some proposals include the use of complex multi-lobe antennas systems so that in principle, one HAPS could replace dozens or even hundreds of cell phone base stations.

Because HAPS systems operating over large population centres close to national borders would radiate power into, and be sensitive to interference from adjacent countries, their regulation is an international matter and is being studied by the ITU. To date, HAPS has been allocated a band around 48 GHz immediately adjacent to our 47 to 47.2 GHz Amateur band.

At WRC 2000, further proposed allocations between 18 and 30 GHz were discussed, as well as

the possibility of operation in the 1710 to 2170 MHz cellular phone bands.

A WRC 2003 agenda item says "To consider regulatory provisions and possible identification of existing frequency allocations for services which may be used by High Altitude Platform Stations, taking into account... the results of ITU-R studies."

While there is no immediate threat to Amateur bands from HAPS, the potential for adjacent band interference at 47 GHz, and the potential for using HAPS as an opportunity to piggy back amateur repeaters makes the topic worth watching closely. A 40 or 50 km high UHF repeater would have spectacular coverage!!

SILENT KEY

From ARRL Headquarters, June 29, 2000

Louis Varney, G5RV, who invented the world-famous G5RV antenna, died June 28. He was 89.

The G5RV multiband wire antenna for HF is among the most popular of all antenna designs. Varney first described the G5RV in the November 1966 issue of the RSGB Bulletin. He employed a full-size and a double-size G5RV, both fed with open-wire feeders, at his own station.

Varney remained an active radio amateur until very recently and kept regular on-the-air schedules. He was an RSGB member for 74 years and served as life president of the Mid-Sussex Amateur Radio Society.

His wife Nelida is among his survivors. Services are set for July 4 in Brighton, England.

FOR SALE...

Stuff to sell so I can buy more stuff!

Ten-Tec Argosy I Best offer over **\$225.00**.
Checked recently by TT. Fifty watts CW and SSB, 80 - 10, no WARC. Noted recently in QST as the finest QRP unit ever designed by Ten-Tec. Switch for 5 or 50 watts. Includes manual and SBE microphone; requires a 12 volt supply. I may regret this later!

Butternut HF5B two element beam **\$175.00**
Great compromise antenna! Worked over 155 countries in less than a year. Covers 10, 12, 15, 17 and 20 meters. Very small footprint, 2-element bow tie design with 3 to 5 dB gain typical. (Cost \$450 new.)

Radio Shack DSP **\$35.00**
Surprise, actually works well on CW, so-so on SSB, includes noise limiter and requires 12-volt source.

Timewave DSP-9 **\$65.00**
Works GREAT, but bought DSP-9+ which works better! Requires 12-volt source.

W9GR DSP-3 **\$125.00**
Purchased kit and never started the project (\$149 new). Bought Timewave DSP units instead. Supposedly one of the best DSP units available on the market today. Advertised regularly in QST and was featured in ARRL handbook for many years.

MFJ 264 1.5KW HF-UHF Dummy Load **\$50.00**

Used very little as new antenna tuner has built-in dummy load. "A dummy load is your friend!" according to N4JL, and I believe him.

MFJ Pocket Morse Code Tutor **\$60.00**
This is one of the few MFJ products that work exceptionally well (\$79.95 new). Got me to 13 WPM in two weeks after 30-year absence from code. Will donate to TARS if not sold.

MFJ Antenna Switch **\$35.00**
Six-position antenna switch used for about six months.

Golden Eagle CX-3R Antenna Switch **\$20.00**
Three position 1000-watt antenna switch.

Casio TV-400 Pocket Color Television **\$???**
Works very well; picks up local TV stations. Not sure what I paid for it; battery operated. If interested, we will work it out - a good deal!

Or will trade all of the above for a used Tailtwister or Yaesu G-1000DXA rotator and Force 12 C-19XR tribander (or equivalent).*

Contact John K4ZNC at 385-2279 (day) or 668-9297 (evenings) or email at ampleassoc@nettally.com.

* Yes, I do have a sense of humor, do you?

SENDING QSL CARDS TO RUSSIA

Provided by Steve Welsh, AD4E

As reprinted from Bernie McClenny [berniedailydx.com], to THE DAILY DX. The following was translated from a February 2000 issue of the Russian Patriot Magazine. If you send a QSL to Box 88 for a Russian ham you better put his call sign on the envelope if you want the IRC's or Green stamps you are sending to get to him.

One of the most important recent events in our amateur radio life is the return to a single QSL bureau for Russia, attached to the Central Radio Club. Its address -- "Box 88 -- has been widely known throughout the world for over 50 years. The ambitious attempts to create an "alternative" and "independent" QSL bureau are done with; they created nothing but a confused mess. Now all of the mail flows in a single channel. The volume is such that without an efficient and professionally organized service it would be difficult to cope with.

According to the latest data, about 150,000 cards from 70-odd countries and territories of the world arrive at the CRC monthly. All QSLs are processed, sorted, and sent out to amateur radio organizations

in the republics, krays, and oblasts (except for those behind in the payment of postal expenses). If cards are picked up, they are delivered without charge, and representatives from Moscow, Moskovskaya Oblast, Kursk, Ryazan, Nizhniy Novgorod, Kaluga, and Belgorod do so. In the other direction, mail weighing around 81 kg is sent to 24 national QSL bureaus. The SRR [Soyuz radiolyubiteley Rossii - Union of Radioamateurs of Russia] Presidium has confirmed a set of rules [polozheniye] for the QSL bureau, which now has the status of an executive organ of the SRR and is a structural subdivision of the CRC.

The Radio Club receives, counts, processes, and forwards abroad, QSL cards received from regional organizations and (with the agreement of the regional organization concerned) from individual radio amateurs in remote areas of Russia, as well as QSL cards arriving from abroad.

The exchange of cards within Russia is the responsibility of regional organizations and of radio amateurs themselves. Packages, wrappers, and letters arriving from abroad and not indicating an individual recipient are opened; enclosed money and IRCs are removed and credited to the CRC account. Envelopes showing the callsign of the addressee are not subject to being opened.

The QSL bureau also handles the issuance of CRC and SRR diplomas [certificates]. If desired by those applying for foreign diplomas, applications may be forwarded at their expense to any amateur radio organization. Under the same conditions, reports on participation in foreign competitions [contests] may be forwarded.

For correspondence within Russia, the following address should be used: 123459, Moskva, Pokhodnyy pr., 23, TsRK RF [Central Radio Club of the Russian Federation, 23 Pokhodnyy Proyezd, 123459 MOSCOW]; foreign mail should be sent to the address P. O. Box 88, Moscow, 123459, Russia.

HAM CALLSIGN LICENSE TAG BATTLE CONTINUES

Reprinted from NOFARSnet.egroups.com. The North Florida Amateur Radio Society is based in Jacksonville. Thanks to Steve, AD4E.

As reported in the last Balanced Modulator (e-mail issue), the Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) plans to issue 4 and 5-character alphanumeric sequences resembling Amateur Radio callsigns to holders of some specialty license plates.

Such an action might preclude an Amateur Radio operator from getting his or her callsign at a future date. Florida Statutes grant all Florida hams who own vehicles weighing less than 5,000 pounds the right to apply for and receive a callsign license tag.

This has been an important privilege that we have enjoyed since 1951 when Florida was the first state in the US to allow hams to have callsign tags. Our privilege is based on valuable service during disaster relief.

Yet, it appears that DHSMV is disregarding the statute. Resistance to this arbitrary action is being fought on several fronts and it might be time for you to weigh in with your opinion to legislators.

The West Central Florida (WCF) ARRL Section leadership, based in the Tampa Bay area, is asking hams to write or e-mail their representatives and Governor Jeb Bush. WCF ARRL Spokesman Paul Toth, NA4AR has spoken with DHSMV Director Tom Joyce. Paul says that if DHSMV implements the plan, Florida will be the only state in the nation to issue Class B and Class C ham callsign combinations on plates to the general population.

Joyce has promised to contact other states to see how they handle such situations but NA4AR is not confident that Joyce will change his stance unless pressure is applied from outside DHSMV.

Through President Billy Williams, N4UF--the North Florida Amateur Radio Society has contacted Florida Representative Doug Wiles, WF4B of St. Augustine. Doug was responsible for getting the wording AMATEUR RADIO added to our plates last year.

In his reply, Doug says, "let me assure you that Senator (Richard) Mitchell and I are working together to quickly resolve this matter. I'm certain that we can resolve this issue promptly with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles."

The problem was discussed at the May 11th NOFARS meeting and the consensus was to allow a couple of weeks for the matter to be handled internally before writing to representatives en-masse.

WCF ARRL officials believe that now is the time to write. Check out the issue more thoroughly by visiting the WCF website at <http://www.wcfarrl.org> and clicking on Florida Amateur Radio License Plates in Danger. Or you can go to <http://www.nofars.org> and click below the red ATTENTION.

Some key legislators besides your district representative are Rep. Kelley R. Smith of the House Transportation Committee Chair via smith.kelley@leg.state.fl.us. Vice Chair is Rep. Bruce Kyle via kyle.bruce@leg.state.fl.us Senator Roberto Casas is the Florida Senate Transportation Committee Vice Chair. He can be reached via casas.roberto.web@leg.state.fl.us Jacksonville Senator Jim King is on the transportation Committee and can be reached via king.james.web@leg.state.fl.us.

Admittedly, most hams will not be affected since only unused combinations where there are 10,000 or more sequential vacancies will be reserved for specialty plates. But such a move sets a very bad precedent. Those with N4, W4, K4 and other common callsign prefixes would be safe but future hams with less common callsign prefixes might see their privilege to have a callsign plate denied.

EDITORIAL POLICY

ANY and ALL submissions made by members in good standing will be printed as space permits. These articles are in NO way to be taken as representing the opinions of the group as a whole but only as the opinions of the author whose name and call will be clearly stated in each article. Submissions for The Printed Circuit may be emailed to: carliane@msn.com.

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Also go to: <http://www.k4tlh.org>.

