



The August monthly meeting will be held at the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which is on Shumard Oak Boulevard. Social begins at 7:00 p.m. with the meeting starting at 7:30 p.m.

Also visit the TARS website at: www.k4tlh.org.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

David Heupel, KG4ACF
TARS President

I would like to thank all the local amateur radio operators that attended our July meeting. It was a very good meeting, and many things were accomplished. Attendance was a little on the low side; but with the meeting falling in a holiday week, I suppose it is to be expected. There were several people at July's meeting that I had not seen before (or at least in a long time) at a TARS meeting. THANK YOU FOR COMING, and I hope to see you again this month and at future meetings. I also hope to see more of you there, and get to know more hams in the area.

If you haven't heard, the "harmonization" of the worldwide 40-meter amateur allocation was delayed yet again at World Radio Conference 2000

(WRC2K). Those of you who don't know, the 40-meter band (7.0 – 7.3 MHz) is crowded with commercial international broadcasters, and you can begin hearing them nightly around 8:00 p. m. EDT (0000 UTC). As I understand the history of the 40-meter amateur allocation, the European community gained a foothold on the 40-meter band during the days of Mussolini and Hitler, to further their political agendas. Everyone seemed to think things would eventually return to normal after the defeat of the Axis Powers in 1945, but conferences following WWII proved that to be a misguided assumption, as the Cold War stepped in to fill the gaps left behind. The 40-meter allocation is important to the amateur community because it is the only allocation we enjoy between 4 and 10 MHz. Additionally, the 40-meter band is ideally suited for regional communications with skip distances ranging from approximately 150 – 750 miles or more. Commercial interests have lots of allocations within this spectrum range already, at 5, 6, 7, and 9 MHz, just to name a few.

The WRC2K made a formal recommendation to deal with the worldwide 40-meter allocation at the next WRC in 2003. I hope they do the sensible thing and give the spectrum back to the amateur community. Commercial interests, in my opinion, already have more than enough spectrum.

Which brings me to my next paragraph... We need to do what we can to protect the valuable spectrum that has been allocated to us. The amateur radio service in the US has enjoyed more allocation of spectrum than any other country on the planet, but

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there are a lot of commercial interests wanting to take that spectrum away from us. The broadcasters on 40-meters is only one example. Many commercial interests have their sights set on 220 MHz (1.25-meters), for various applications such as pagers, wireless phones, data networking, etc. Within the last year – and products are already appearing on the market now – portions of the 2.4 GHz band were auctioned off by the FCC. Electronics manufacturers are now making wireless products operating in the 2.4 GHz range, some of which (I understand) are even within the amateur allocation of 2.4 GHz. Products such as cordless phones, wireless speaker systems, etc., are popping up all over the place. Personally, I will not buy any of these products, and I encourage you to do the same, to make a statement about the importance of our spectrum allocations. I will refuse to buy any sort of Radio Frequency-based product that encroaches, or has the appearance of encroaching on amateur frequencies. Naturally, of course, this excludes any amateur radio or related gear, but I think you know what I mean. Many of you may have received a mailing from the ARRL recently, asking for donations to *The Fund for the Defense of Amateur Radio Frequencies*. This fund, administered by the ARRL, will be used to help us fight the commercial interests that are chomping at the bit for chunks of our valuable frequency spectrum. I encourage you to give what you can to this worthwhile effort.

The school season is about to start up real soon, and as I mentioned before, I am going to be talking to area high schools about bringing amateur radio into the classroom. If any of you are currently mentoring youth, I would like to know about your experiences. Also, if you would be interested in “Elmering” at a local high school, please get in touch with me (contact information below).

On another education related note, I would like to take a column inch or two to express my gratitude and appreciation to Ivan Cook, K4SRB, for the outstanding job he has been doing with educating new hams, and helping existing hams upgrade their tickets. Ivan was instrumental in helping two hams close to me with upgrading: my mom, Joan Heupel,

The Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society

KG4CJU, upgraded to Tech +, and Jackie Gray, KG4CZX, passed her code element, and then became a General. They both tested successfully in February at the Orlando HamCation, and they are very grateful to Ivan. I had the pleasure of helping Ivan with some of the classes he gave that my mom and Jackie attended. Ivan has a real talent for teaching, and explaining complex concepts in a manner that is easily understood. Ivan has gone above and beyond the call of duty by offering of his time and residence for the purpose of helping others achieve their goals with respect to ham radio. If you would like to help Ivan with his educational efforts, please contact him at 850.878.7732, or feel free to contact me, and I will get a message to Ivan.

TARS now enjoys another place in cyberspace. Jim Monaghan, KE4HYQ, has set up an eGroups account for TARS. You can point your web browser to:

http://www.egroups.com/dir/Recreation/Amateur_Radio/Organizations/Local_Clubs?st=40 to find the TARS eGroup, register, and join the group. Don't forget to bookmark the page while you're there! The eGroups community offers a mail reflector, calendar, discussion board, and many other useful utilities. I hope you will make use of this innovative on-line service, and be sure to regularly check in to our eGroup.

With all that said, it is my understanding as I write this column, that the August meeting will be held at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) this month. Program needs and other considerations dictate the use of this location for the August meeting, and Dave Pienta, KG4DVW, is making the necessary arrangements. Keep your ears peeled, and radios tuned to 146.655 on August 3, as announcements will be made regarding the final meeting location.

Until next month, 73!

Dave, KG4ACF
850.877.4046 – home
850.321.3217 – cell
dheupel@talstar.com - e-mail

CURRENT EVENTS

David Pienta, KG4DVW

TARS Vice-President

Hello TARS members. I am extremely honored to be your new Vice President. I am expecting great things for this year. I have new programs lined up. Joe Leikhim will be presenting a satellite program for us this month. I have heard a number of comments in the past about not having any programs at our meetings. If you would like to see a program on a subject you are interested in please let me know. I am always looking for new ideas.

I also wanted to announce for those of you who were not at the last meeting that the new meeting place for TARS is the Claude Pepper Building downtown on the South side of the Capitol Building. We have voted this in as our new meeting spot due to the possibility of activation of the State EOC. However, the State EOC will be our alternate meeting spot.

THIS MONTH OUR MEETING WILL BE AT THE STATE EOC DUE TO THE NATURE OF THE PROGRAM WE ARE GOING TO HAVE.

In closing I just wanted to thank all of you for voting for me, and remember, if you have anything you would like to see done by the club, please let me know. My contact information will be printed in the newsletter. Have a great month.

73,

David Pienta, KG4DVW

219-6247 – home

556-4025 – cell

weatherman_fsu@yahoo.com - email

JULY 6 MEETING MINUTES

Randall Bishop, KD6UAN

TARS Secretary

There were 21 members and two guests in attendance.

Committee Reports:

The Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society

Treasurer's Report: KC4TOC, Kent Hutchinson didn't have a formal report prepared but estimated that there was \$1600 in the club's account and, with a few bills still to pay, estimates that the club will have over a thousand at year's end.

Testing: N4KGT Alan Terrell, reported that the next testing session would be held Tuesday, July 11. At the Emergency Operations Center. The Field ay testing session had 5 tests given. One tech and one extra class operator joined our ranks.

Repeaters: KG4ACF David Heupel gave an abbreviated report in the absence of KC4YWP Randy Pierce. The 146.91 MHz machine is fixed and will be ready as soon as Randy returns from Iceland. The six-meter repeater is still waiting for crystals for the new frequency allotment. 147.03 is up and running with an occasional short outage due to fluctuating SWR reading. All of the 440 machines seem to be working as advertised.

Education: K4SRB Ivan Cook has made mention that he doesn't want to be a committee of one. But would be happy to have a few other people who are interested in teaching and would like to volunteer to be part of the committee. Several of the members in attendance made mention that Ivan should be commended for the work that he puts in to helping further amateur radio.

Old Business: Last month a motion was tabled to make the Claude Pepper building the permanent meeting place for TARS. The discussion was brought forth and the pro and cons weighted on having the meetings at the EOC or at the Claude Pepper Bldg. A motion was made to have the meetings held in the Pepper bldg. The motion was seconded and a hand vote was tallied in an overwhelming majority. The EOC was voted as being secondary meeting place if the circumstances warranted.

Field Day: The Club scored a total of 7268 points. Mention was made about Ken Reecy KC4TO and the outstanding job he did during field day. One problem for new amateurs was that there were no equipment manuals available in order to operate the

equipment. Another proposal was brought up to build a portable satellite station and have people get used to using it so we don't leave 100 points on the table next year. This was tabled until next month.

Bonnie McEwan was very happy to have us at the San Luis Mission site this year and asked us to come back if we ever wanted to in the future. A thank you letter is being drafted to send to the San Luis Mission site. A letter is also being drafted to thank "Buck" Jackson KD4OPU for cooking the meals for the Field Day event.

Newsletter: The Printed Circuit will be distributed both on the web site and by e-mail. A list was taken up of people that want to be sent The Printed Circuit by e-mail.

Equipment trustee: KG4ACF David Heupel asked if someone knew where a permanent storage place for the equipment for the club should be stored. From this discussion a list developed of things that need to be done concerning the equipment.

- List of equipment
- Storage Unit
- Carliane volunteered space for this project.
- Obtaining old equipment list and retrieving club property from different people who have borrowed it.
- Purchase of HF antennas for club use, both on the van and for special events.
- Damage Deposit

Fund Raising: In order to boost the accounts of the club Carliane Johnson, KG4CJT explored the idea of a food booth at the Picnic in the Park events in Tom Brown Park. There was a suggestion to check out the event and report back. KC4WCG Matt May suggested a way of providing provision for the event. Bringing the van out to the park and turning the booth into an educational event was also discussed.

Upcoming events:

Torch Relay Across America: Monday July 17 at 0830. This is a relay from Houston, Texas to New York, NY, to promote awareness for the Tenth Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Three volunteers are needed for this event.

Lighthouse Keepers Log for Hams. This is a national HF event that will take place at the St Marks Lighthouse on August 5-6.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:28 EDT.

TREASURER'S REPORT

April 26 through July 20, 2000

	<u>Checking</u>	<u>Savings</u>
Beginning Balance	\$548.57	\$1798.29
Deposits	750.65	
Withdrawals	959.32	
Ending Balance	\$339.90	\$1798.29

Withdrawals

Repeater parts, etc.	\$432.00
Field day	300.00
Newsletter	178.32
TOSRV	<u>49.00</u>
Total:	\$959.32

Deposits

Donations	\$553.50
Dues	160.00
Field day	<u>37.15</u>
Total	\$750.65

Dues: W2IKF, N4FRW, KG4DXH, WD4HWJ, N4KGS, KD2NL, N4HV, WB4GTJ

CARL'S QUIZ FOR AUGUST

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.

JULY'S QUESTION WAS: 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?

ANSWER: The earliest kind of radiotelegraphy was by use of spark transmitters. Spark transmitters produced a very unpure signal, consisting of an approximately sinusoidal oscillation that sprang into life and then decayed to zero amplitude many times per second. The decay was approximately logarithmic, and resulted from the damping of the oscillation by the radiation of energy. Such a signal, which occupied many kilocycles of bandwidth, was called a damped sinusoid, or a damped wave. When vacuum-tube amplifiers were employed as oscillators, it became possible for the first time to produce a purely sinusoidal wave that was not damped but was of continuous amplitude. Such a signal was (and is) called a continuous wave, and radiotelegraphy that uses such a signal is called continuous wave, or CW, telegraphy. Properly, of course, it ought to be (and sometimes is) called interrupted continuous wave telegraphy, or ICW.

THE QUESTION FOR SEPTEMBER: You have no doubt become aware that many hams abbreviate a lot on CW. Most of the abbreviations, like CUAGN for See you again, seem to be intuitive and sensible. One that doesn't seem either sensible or intuitive is ES for and. WHY do hams use ES for and? Where'd it come from?

19TH ANNUAL ARRL AND TAPR DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE

Press Release submitted by Steve Welsh, AD4E

2000 ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference
September 22-24, 2000
Orlando, Florida

It is that time again! Time to start making your travel plans and thinking about what to publish for the upcoming 19th Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference.

The ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference is an international forum for radio amateurs in digital communications, networking, and related technologies to meet, publish their work, and present new ideas and techniques for discussion. Presenters and attendees will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about recent hardware and software advances, theories, experimental results, and practical applications. The Digital Communications Conference is not just for the digital expert, but for digitally-oriented amateurs of all levels of experience.

The 2000 ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference will be held September 22-24, 2000 in Orlando, Florida. This year's conference location is just minutes away from the Orlando International Airport (MCO).

Not only is the Digital Communications Conference technically stimulating, it is a weekend of fun for all who have more than a casual interest in any of the ham digital communications modes. This includes networkers, sysops, software writers, modem designers, and digital satellite communications enthusiasts. The ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference is for all levels of digital operators -- a must conference to attend to get active on a national level. Now, more than ever, amateur radio needs this great meeting of the minds, since it is important that we demonstrate a continued need for the frequency allocations we

now have by pushing forward and documenting our achievements. The ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference is one of the few ways to record our accomplishments and challenge each other to do more.

Area Attractions

The Orlando Florida area is famous for its attractions and vacation spots. Disney World, Universal Studios, and Sea World (just to name a few) are within 15 minutes of the hotel. Shuttle service from the hotel will be available for a small fee. Cape Canaveral and Cocoa Beach are a 30-minute drive east of the hotel.

KUDOS TO TARS

Reprint of Capital City Cyclists' Letter

To: Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society
911 San Luis Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Dear Kent,

We cannot thank you enough for all of your marvelous support during our annual Tour of Scenic Rural Vistas (TOSRV). Cyclists' raves were abundant in their praise of your help at every turn and friendly waves throughout the day. Your presence made everyone feel confident and added immeasurably to a grand spring weekend!

Once again, thank you, and we all look forward to our continuing collaboration.

Warmly,

<signed>

David and Martha Crawford
Karen Girard

HOW MANY MARBLES DO YOU HAVE LEFT?

Thanks to Matt May's (KC4WCG) great-uncle Jerry Shingledecker for the following:

A few weeks ago, I was shuffling toward the basement shack with a steaming cup of coffee in one hand and the morning paper in the other. What began as a typical Saturday morning, turned into one of those lessons that life seems to hand you from time to time. Let me tell you about it.

I turned the dial up into the phone portion of the band on my ham radio in order to listen to a Saturday morning swap net. Along the way, I came across an older sounding chap, with a tremendous signal and a golden voice. You know the kind, he sounded like he should be in the broadcasting business. He was telling whomever he was talking with something about "a thousand marbles."

I was intrigued and stopped to listen to what he had to say. "Well, Tom, it sure sounds like you're busy with your job. I'm sure they pay you well but it's a shame you have to be away from home and your family so much. Hard to believe a young fellow should have to work sixty or seventy hours a week to make ends meet. Too bad you missed your daughter's dance recital."

He continued, "Let me tell you something Tom, something that has helped me keep a good perspective on my own priorities." And that's when he began to explain his theory of a "thousand marbles."

"You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventy-five years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on average, folks live about seventy-five years."

"Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3900 which is the number of Saturdays that the average person has in their entire lifetime. Now stick with me Tom, I'm getting to the important part."

“It took me until I was fifty-five years old to think about all this in any detail”, he went on, “and by that time I had lived through over twenty-eight hundred Saturdays. I got to thinking that if I lived to be seventy-five, I only had about a thousand of them left to enjoy.”

“So I went to a toy store and bought every single marble they had. I ended up having to visit three toy stores to round-up 1000 marbles. I took them home and put them inside of a large, clear plastic container right here in the shack next to my gear. Every Saturday since then, I have taken one marble out and thrown it away.”

“I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life. There is nothing like watching your time here on this earth run out to help get your priorities straight.”

“Now let me tell you one last thing before I sign-off with you and take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure if I make it until next Saturday then I have been given a little extra time. And the one thing we can all use is a little more time.”

“It was nice to meet you Tom, I hope you spend more time with your family, and I hope to meet you again.”

You could have heard a pin drop on the radio when this fellow signed off. I guess he gave us all a lot to think about. I had planned to work on the antenna that morning, and then I was going to meet up with a few hams to work on the next club newsletter. Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife up with a kiss.

“C’mon honey, I’m taking you and the kids to breakfast.”

“What brought this on?” she asked with a smile.

“Oh, nothing special, it’s just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. Hey,

can we stop at a toy store while we’re out? I need to buy some marbles.”

HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND AND MAY ALL YOUR SATURDAYS BE SPECIAL!

QSL INFORMATION

Reprinted from WORLDRADIO, May 2000

425 DX News says when sending QSL requests to Hong Kong do not include China or Peoples Republic of China in the address. To do so would direct mail via Shanghai, adding a month to delivery time, and also the chance of the mail never reaching Hong Kong. Correctly addressed mail will go via direct flights to Hong Kong

TARS ON-LINE

Don’t forget to check these online resources:

<http://www.k4tlh.org>

TARS main web site.

<http://latenight.net/ares>

Capital District ARES web site – be sure to register.

<http://www.egroups.com/group/tars>

TARS on-line group discussion board, calendar, file exchange, trading post, etc.

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.

TO:



Activities/Events/Info

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
August 3, 7:30 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	State Emergency Ops Cntr, Shumard Oak Blvd.
August 5-6	Lighthouse Keeper's Log	National HF event at St. Marks Lighthouse
(Go to: http://www.waterw.com/~weidner/lh-ham.htm or contact John Love at 893-3352)		
September 5, 6:00 p.m.	Testing Session	State EOC
(contact Alan Terrell at terrella@nettally.com)		
September 9-10	2000 Melbourne Hamfest	Melbourne Auditorium (talk-in: 146.25/85)
September 22-24	ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference	Orlando, Florida
Sundays 8 p.m.	ARES Net	Talk-in: 146.655
Sundays 8:45 p.m.	APRS Net	Talk-in: 144.390
Fridays at 11:30 a.m.	Lunch	Kosta's Subs & Salads S. Adams & Oakland
Saturdays at 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast	Golden Corral, N. Monroe Street